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Acucela Inc. to Participate in Upcoming Life Science Intellectual Property Forum in Japan

Seattle, Washington (February 1, 2012) – Acucela Inc., a clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on developing new treatments for blinding eye diseases, today announced that Ryo Kubota, M.D., Ph.D., Acucela’s chairman, president and CEO, is scheduled to participate in the Life Science Intellectual Property Forum to be held Friday, February 10, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. – 5:25 p.m. in Tokyo, Japan.

Sponsored by the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA) and the Japan Bioindustry Association (JBA), the Forum will focus on the Japanese biotech industry and how government, industry and academia can work together more effectively to motivate and stimulate drug development in Japan.

Dr. Kubota stated, “I am honored to have the opportunity to present at this Forum along with prominent government officials, researchers and executives from leading pharmaceutical companies in both the U.S. and Japan. I look forward to engaging with my peers in an open dialogue on how to better foster innovation in drug development.”

About Acucela Inc.

Acucela Inc. (www.acucela.com) is a clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on leveraging promising science in visual cycle modulation (VCM) to develop new methods for treating blinding eye diseases that affect tens of millions of people worldwide. The Company’s orally delivered VCM compounds, which selectively target cells within the retina to protect visual acuity, have the potential to treat several devastating eye diseases, including dry AMD, for which there is currently no treatment options, retinopathy of prematurity, Stargardt disease and diabetic retinopathy. ACU-4429 for dry AMD is being co-developed by Acucela and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. in North America, and the companies are also co-developing Rebamipide for dry eye and OPA-6566 for glaucoma in the United States. Acucela was founded by Ryo Kubota, M.D., Ph.D., a pioneer in ophthalmology and the discoverer of the gene that causes glaucoma.

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