

For Immediate Release

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*News Release*

**Enanta Pharmaceuticals Introduces New Macrolide Class at  
Antibacterial Drug Discovery & Development Summit**

***“Discovery of Novel Bridged Ketolides that Overcome Bacterial Resistance, are Active against *H. influenzae* and Provide Improved Pharmacokinetics”***



**WATERTOWN, Mass., March 25, 2003** – Enanta Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

([www.enanta.com](http://www.enanta.com)), a chemistry-driven biopharmaceutical company, today presented data on the company's macrolide program at the Antibacterial Drug Discovery & Development Summit in Princeton, New Jersey. Dr. Ly Tam Phan, Enanta's Director of Medicinal Chemistry and Macrolide Project Leader presented for the first time data on a new class of antibacterial agents, discovered at Enanta, that are effective against antibiotic resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and are being developed for the treatment of respiratory tract infections. Dr. Phan's presentation is titled: "Discovery of Novel Bridged Ketolides that Overcome Bacterial Resistance, are Active Against *H. Influenzae* and Provide Improved Pharmacokinetics."

Macrolides are a safe, effective, and widely used class of antibacterial agents that have gained global acceptance as a first-line medical treatment for respiratory tract infections. Since the introduction of the first macrolide, erythromycin, over fifty years ago, macrolide usage has grown consistently, especially after the development of the second-generation macrolides, clarithromycin and azithromycin.

However, increasing evidence is pointing to a clinically important increase in macrolide resistance, particularly among *Streptococci*, the predominant bacterial pathogens in many community respiratory tract infections. A recent study published in the journal, *Nature Medicine*, evaluated the trends of antibiotic resistance for strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in the U.S. The study concluded that by mid-2004, forty-one percent (41%) of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* strains will be resistant to both penicillin and erythromycin.

"The presentation at this conference underscores Enanta's continued commitment towards developing a new class of macrolide antibiotics for treatment of respiratory tract infections," stated Dr. Phan. "Since the inception of our macrolide program, Enanta has made significant strides in discovering compounds that exhibit a favorable biological profile against bacterial resistance, and exhibit potential for improved performance over existing drugs."

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Enanta believes that there is a growing unmet medical need for new macrolide antibiotics that are both safer and more efficacious against respiratory pathogens. For the past two years Enanta has been working with a new class of erythromycin derivatives, known as ketolides. Ketolides are emerging as particularly significant antibacterial agents, demonstrating potent activity against specific resistant organisms. Enanta's research has led to the discovery of a new compound class, the "bridged ketolides," that exhibit favorable antimicrobial properties. Dr. Phan presented results of the medicinal chemistry optimization and preclinical studies of these novel Enanta compounds. The studies demonstrate that this new class of compounds is effective against macrolide and penicillin resistant strains of *Streptococci* and have potent efficacy in preclinical infection models. In addition, the bridged ketolides have advantageous pharmacokinetic properties including good oral bioavailability and distribution to the lung tissue.

Macrolides represent almost 20% of the \$20 billion worldwide antibiotics market. In the U.S., sales of macrolide antibiotics amounted to \$3.6 billion in 2000 and are forecast to reach \$5 billion by 2005.

**About Enanta**

Headquartered in Watertown, Mass., Enanta Pharmaceuticals is using its cutting-edge chemistry technology and capabilities to create new intellectual properties by transforming existing drugs, natural products, and biologically active peptides into novel, small-molecule drugs. The Company is initially focusing on new chemical entities derived from existing drugs that address significant unmet medical needs: (a) new-generation macrolide antibiotics to overcome bacterial resistance; (b) anti-inflammatory drugs for a variety of indications, including asthma, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel diseases, and (c) novel antiviral agents targeted to the Hepatitis C virus (HCV).

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