

CONTACT:

Paul Kidwell

617-296-3854

paul_kidwell@hotmail.com

News Release

**Enanta Pharmaceuticals Presents Cyclosporin and Macrolide
Chemistry and application of Peptide Morphing™ Technology in Three
Scientific Papers**



WATERTOWN, Mass., February 5, 2003 -- Enanta Pharmaceuticals Inc. (www.enanta.com), a chemistry-driven biopharmaceutical company that focuses on transforming existing drugs, natural products and biologically active peptide leads into small molecules with improved pharmacological properties, today announced that results from two of its research programs have been published in the most recent editions of the scientific journals, *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* and *Organic Letters*. The papers described the company's novel chemistry approaches to the development of proprietary Cyclosporin A analogues and macrolide antibiotics. A third paper, which was also published in the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, describes the successful application of the company's Peptide Morphing™ technology, licensed exclusively from Harvard University, to the synthesis of small molecule agonists of the mu-opioid receptor. This work was conducted in the laboratory of Dr. Gregory L. Verdine, Harvard College Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, and scientific founder of Enanta.

“2,6-Dimethyltyrosine Analogues of a Stereodiversified Ligand Library: Highly Potent, Selective, Non-Peptide μ Opioid Receptor Agonists” (*Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*) discusses the development of small molecule agonists of the mu-opioid receptor; an important target in pain management. The paper describes the systematic conversion of a peptide to a drug lead that is completely devoid of peptidic character and has greater potency. The systematic and efficient conversion of peptides has been a major unmet need in drug discovery research. Future research in this area will allow Enanta to further optimize these compounds for the development of pain therapeutics with an improved efficacy and safety profile.

Commenting on the recently published studies, Spiros Jamas, President and CEO of Enanta Pharmaceuticals, said “We are pleased to continue to demonstrate the strong chemistry expertise and drug discovery accomplishments at Enanta through publications in peer reviewed scientific journals.”

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In the “Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Novel Cyclosporin A Analogues: Potential Soft Drugs for the Treatment of Autoimmune Diseases” (*Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*) paper Enanta scientists discovered a highly efficient method to synthesize Cyclosporin A analogues targeted for the treatment of asthma, psoriasis, and inflammatory bowel disease. These Cyclosporin A analogues can be targeted to the inflamed organ achieving a potent and local immunosuppressive effect, and are then converted to inactive and non-toxic metabolites by detoxification enzymes. The “Synthesis of New 14-Membered Macrolide Antibiotics via a Novel Ring Contraction Metathesis” paper (*Organic Letters*) describes the chemical transformation of existing 16-membered macrolides into novel macrolide core structures that retain the beneficial properties of the parent compound while offering the improved pharmacokinetics and efficacy associated with 14-membered macrolides.

About Enanta

Headquartered in Watertown, Mass., Enanta Pharmaceuticals is using its breakthrough chemistry technology - Drug Morphing™ and Peptide Morphing® -- 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; and (b) anti-inflammatory drugs for a variety of indications, including asthma, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel diseases.

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