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News Release

Enanta Pharmaceuticals Presents Macrolide Antibiotic Research at the Annual 42nd Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy



SAN DIEGO, California, September 30, 2002 -- Enanta Pharmaceuticals Inc. (www.enanta.com), a leading drug discovery company that focuses on morphing existing drugs, natural products and biologically-active peptide leads into small molecules with improved pharmacological properties presented initial findings of its proprietary macrolide antibiotic research program at the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC) in San Diego this week.

Macrolides are an important class of antibiotics that are widely used to treat respiratory infections in the community, however, the increase in bacterial resistance and emergence of new pathogens is creating a serious unmet medical need. Enanta's macrolide research program is actively identifying novel classes of macrolides with improved antimicrobial and pharmacologic properties. In three separate presentations at ICAAC, Enanta scientists summarized their research on the identification of novel macrolide chemical structures. The chemical structures discovered in these studies provide Enanta with a strong leadership position in macrolide development and an untapped territory from which to create future lead compounds.

Enanta utilizes cutting edge chemistry techniques to modify existing macrolide natural products to overcome resistance mechanisms in clinically important Gram-positive pathogens such as *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. In one particular approach, Enanta scientists have converted existing 16-membered ring macrolide antibiotics into novel 14-membered ring structures that provide the basis for new therapeutics to combat the emergence of bacterial resistance. The poster presentations are titled: "Synthesis and Antibacterial Activities of Novel 11-0-Substituted Macrolide and Ketolide Derivatives," "9-Amino Derivatives of Novel-14 Membered Ring Macrolide Antibiotics Derived from Leucomycins: Chemistry and *in vitro* Biological Activities," and "Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of a New Class of 14-Membered Ring Macrolide Antibiotics."

"Our presentations at ICAAC demonstrate Enanta's ongoing commitment towards developing a new class of macrolide antibiotics that combat bacterial resistance and improve upon the performance of existing drugs, stated Enanta's Senior Vice President of Research and Development, Yat Sun Or, Ph.D. "We are very excited about the

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potential of our macrolide program and confident that our focused research approach will allow us to enter clinical development next year."

Macrolides are one class 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. Macrolides represented almost 20 percent of antibiotic sales in 2000 and are expected to retain this share over time.

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 'morphing' 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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