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**Enanta Pharmaceuticals presents data from collaborative study with University of Pittsburgh Medical Center that confirm its new class of *cyclosporin* analogs have potent anti-inflammatory effects targeted to asthma**

**Data presented at 98<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference of the American Thoracic Society (ATS)**



WATERTOWN, Mass., May 22, 2002 -- Enanta Pharmaceuticals Inc. announced today that it has discovered a new class of *cyclosporin* analogs targeted to the treatment of asthma. These compounds can be delivered topically to the target organ and exert a potent and local anti-inflammatory effect, with reduced toxicity. Data presented today from a collaborative study between Enanta Pharmaceuticals and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute confirmed that the novel cyclosporin analogs were active at suppressing the proliferation of human T-cells and their ability to produce pro-inflammatory cytokines, which are important mechanisms involved in asthma.

"Cyclosporin is a primary therapy used to prevent rejection following solid organ transplantation and is an immunosuppressive agent that has benefits in the treatment of a number of inflammatory disorders," said John Fung M.D., Director of the Starzl Transplant Institute and Thomas E. Starzl Professor of Transplantation Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh. "In particular, cyclosporin has been efficacious in the treatment of chronic severe asthma. However, its use is limited due to kidney toxicity." Yat Sun Or, Ph.D., Senior Vice President of Research and Development at Enanta, and the study's principal investigator added, "The results of our studies demonstrate that Enanta's cyclosporin analogs retain the key immunosuppressive activity important for treating asthma and are then converted to a metabolite which shows significantly less toxicity. Our chemistry discovery can also be applied to improving other attributes of cyclosporin like water solubility."

According to the Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI), between 12 and 15 million people in the United States, including close to 5 million children, have asthma. Asthma is a chronic disease in which airflow in and out of the lungs may be blocked by muscle squeezing, swelling and excess mucus.

The University of Pittsburgh's Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute is named in honor of transplant pioneer, Thomas E. Starzl, M.D., Ph. D., who performed the world's first liver transplant in 1963. The institute is world renowned for its cutting edge research contributions and sheer volume of experience. Since 1981, nearly 12,000 transplants have been performed at the University of Pittsburgh, a single-center experience unmatched by any other program in the world.

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The American Thoracic Society, founded in 1905, is an independent international educational and scientific society whose members help prevent and fight respiratory disease around the globe through research, education, patient care, and advocacy. The Society's long-range goal is to decrease morbidity and mortality from respiratory disorders and life-threatening acute illnesses.

Headquartered in Watertown, Mass., Enanta Pharmaceuticals is using its breakthrough chemistry technology - *Drug Morphing*<sup>™</sup> and *Peptide Morphing*<sup>®</sup> -- 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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