For Immediate Release

CONTACT:
Paul Kidwell
617-296-3854
paul_kidwell@hotmail.com

News Release

Enanta Pharmaceuticals Introduces New Macrolide Class at ISAAR 2003

Seoul, South Korea, July 18, 2003 – Enanta Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (www.enanta.com), a chemistry-driven biopharmaceutical company, today presents data on the company's macrolide antibiotic program at the 4th International Symposium on Antimicrobial Agents and Resistance (ISAAR 2003) in Seoul, Korea. Dr. Yat Sun Or, Senior Vice President, Research and Development, will present new data on a novel class of antibacterial agents, discovered at Enanta, that are being developed for the treatment of upper and lower respiratory tract infections. Dr. Or's presentation is titled: "Novel Bridged Ketolide Antibiotics**.**"

Macrolides are a safe and well-established 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 use has grown consistently, especially after the development of the second-generation macrolides, clarithromycin and azithromycin. Increasing resistance to current antimicrobials, including existing macrolide antibiotics, and weak activity against problem pathogens describe the major challenge facing patients and physicians, and the opportunity for new antibiotic drug discovery.

Dr. Or's presentation highlights Enanta's work with a new class of erythromycin derivatives, known as ketolides, which are gaining acceptance as effective antibacterial agents, and have demonstrated potency against specific resistant organisms. Dr. Or's data identifies ketolides such as telithromycin and cethromycin, as promising new antimicrobial agents with the potential to treat respiratory tract infections caused by macrolide resistant organisms. Enanta has discovered and is developing the next generation of ketolides designed to combat a broader group of respiratory pathogens; while also combining improved pharmacokinetic properties that are aimed at achieving once-daily dosing, lower dosages and low potential for side effects.

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"The presentation at this conference is representative of Enanta's targeted macrolide research strategy that involves the use of proprietary chemical modifications of existing macrolides such as erythromycin A, azithromycin, and others in the effort to identify novel macrolides that have the capability to overcome resistance and have attractive profiles for treatment of community acquired infections," said Dr. Or. "In the past two years, Enanta's chemistry team has created a diverse macrolide library with a host of novel structures derived from 16- and 14-membered parent macrolides that exhibit diverse antibacterial activity as well as superior pharmacokinetic properties compared with existing drugs."

Macrolides are a growing segment of the $20 billion global antibiotics market and Enanta's antibacterial research program is developing new macrolide antibiotics for worldwide use that are safer and more efficacious against respiratory pathogens. Macrolides are currently used to treat a variety of bacterial illnesses related to community respiratory tract infections, such as otitis media, chronic sinusitis, bronchitis, pharyngitis, pneumonia, and strep throat. Macrolide antibiotics are generally considered safe, well tolerated, and convenient to use.

About ISAAR
Since 1997, ISAAR has been contributing to exchange and update the data and information on various issues related to infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance biennially. ISAAR 2003 is to be held under the theme of *Antimicrobial Treatment in the 21st Century: Current Challenges and Future Strategies* and is hosted by the Asian-Pacific Research Foundation for Infectious Diseases (ARFID).

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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