

MicuRx Pharmaceuticals Selects Next-Generation Antibiotic Candidate Targeting MRSA and Expands Operation in China

UNION CITY, Calif. and SHANGHAI, China, Aug. 18 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- MicuRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a privately-held biopharmaceutical company developing next-generation antibiotics, today announced the nomination of MRX-I as its first preclinical development candidate. MRX-I is an antibacterial molecule targeting multi-drug resistant gram-positive bacteria, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Simultaneously, the company expanded its operations in China to increase MicuRx' capacity in antibacterial drug discovery and development.

"Only 12 months after initial funding, we have discovered multiple drug leads and selected our first development candidate MRX-I, a promising antibacterial compound that we expect to be superior to many of the top-selling antibiotics available today," said Zhengyu Yuan, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of MicuRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. "This enhanced productivity is owed in part to our hybrid business model that leverages the drug discovery capacity readily available in China and the superior management expertise in the United States."

"MRX-I and additional MicuRx pipeline leads have been identified using our proprietary drug discovery platform," commented Mike F. Gordeev, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief scientific officer of MicuRx. "We will continue to leverage this novel platform to further enhance the pharmacological properties and safety profile of clinically validated antibiotic classes, creating best-in-class antibiotics capable of addressing the growing problem of the bacterial multi-drug resistance."

MicuRx raised \$10 million in 2007 with Morningside Group as the sole investor. To facilitate the development of its lead compounds and expand the research capacity, MicuRx recently moved its research and development operations in China to a new 10,000 square-foot facility in ZhangJian HighTech Park in Shanghai, China. The company intends to use this integrated state-of- art chemistry and biology facility for drug discovery and development activities to advance its next-generation antimicrobial products.

About Multi-Drug Resistance and MRSA

Modern antimicrobials (antibiotics and related pharmaceuticals) have substantially reduced the threat posed by infectious diseases and contributed to a dramatic drop in mortality rates over the past 30 years. However, due to widespread use of existing drugs in the community and hospital environment, pathogenic bacteria resistant to current antimicrobial therapies have evolved and become ubiquitous, presenting a global health threat. The World Health Organization has set forth a mandate to combat this growing problem and encouraged an urgent action of the member countries. MicuRx is addressing this need directly by developing best-in-class antimicrobials targeting multi- drug resistant bacteria.

About MicuRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

MicuRx is discovering and developing next-generation antibacterial and antifungal products. By applying designer modifications to validated antibiotics, MicuRx intends to improve overall pharmacological properties of antimicrobial drugs in order to overcome antibiotic resistance, increase the antibacterial spectrum, improve the dosing regimen, or reduce adverse

side effects. The company has research and development facilities in San Francisco Bay Area and ZhangJiang High-Tech Park in Shanghai, China.

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