

Enanta Pharmaceuticals Raises \$20 Million in New Financing and Initiates Phase 1 Clinical Trial on EP-013420, a First-In-Class Bridged Bicyclic Ketolide Antibiotic for Community Respiratory Tract Infections

WATERTOWN, Mass., Aug. 31 /PRNewswire/ -- Enanta Pharmaceuticals today announced that it has raised \$20 million in new financing. The Company has also initiated a Phase 1 clinical trial in the United States for its community antibiotic candidate, EP-013420.

Participants in the financing included Shionogi & Co. LTD, as well as returning investors Techno Venture Management, Oxford Bioscience Partners, BioVentures Investors and Global Biomedical Partners. The funding will be used to advance EP-013420 in the clinic and to progress the company's discovery-stage anti-infective programs.

First in its class, EP-013420 is a Bridged Bicyclic Ketolide (BBK) that was designed by Enanta to have optimal pharmacokinetics and to provide broad treatment against respiratory pathogens, including several multi-drug resistant strains for which traditional macrolides, penicillins, and fluoroquinolones are no longer effective. In this trial, EP-013420 will be evaluated for its pharmacokinetics, safety and tolerability in healthy volunteers. In July 2004, Enanta exclusively licensed the Asia territory rights for EP-013420 to Shionogi & Co., LTD., of Osaka, Japan.

"This clinical trial marks an important milestone for Enanta as we have translated our chemistry and drug discovery expertise into a very important new clinical-stage product with blockbuster potential to satisfy a growing unmet medical need in the community setting," said Jay Luly, Ph.D., President and CEO. "The ambitious pre-clinical product-profile we have achieved with EP-013420 will provide us the opportunity to pursue multiple indications and position this drug candidate as best-in-class."

"There is a tremendous need for next generation antibiotics to overcome the growing threat of bacterial resistance in the treatment of community respiratory tract infections," stated infectious disease specialist Robert C. Moellering, Jr., M.D., Herrman Blumgart Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Enanta Clinical Advisor.

"Enanta's novel BBK antibiotics offer the promise of broader coverage against many of these resistant strains with the potential of improved safety and efficacy, and more convenient dosing," said Yat Sun Or, Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Research and Development.

About EP-013420

Enanta is developing EP-013420 for the treatment of community respiratory tract infections with potential indications for community acquired pneumonia, acute exacerbation of chronic bronchitis, acute sinusitis, tonsillitis/pharyngitis, and otitis media. EP-013420 is a first-in-class Bridged Bicyclic Ketolide antibiotic that is the result of Enanta's innovative medicinal chemistry approach to creating novel and proprietary chemical

structures. Preclinical studies have shown an excellent pharmacokinetic profile for EP-013420 and an improved activity profile relative to currently marketed macrolides and ketolides, including activity against many strains of resistant *S. pneumoniae*. This is the most commonly implicated bacteria in respiratory infections, responsible for 45% of the cases of community acquired pneumonia (CAP) and 34% of acute sinusitis. Nearly one-third of *S. pneumoniae* infections in the US are resistant to penicillin and 31% are resistant to the macrolide antibiotic erythromycin. *S. pneumoniae* resistance is more common in Asia, where 53% of *S. pneumoniae* infections are penicillin resistant and 80% are erythromycin resistant.

The global respiratory antibiotic market was approximately \$12 billion in 2002. Three major antibiotic classes dominate the respiratory antibiotic market: macrolides, beta-lactams, and quinolones. Of these classes, several respiratory antibiotics generate annual sales well in excess of \$1 billion. Worldwide sales of macrolide drugs amounted to approximately \$5.64 billion in 2003.

About Enanta

Enanta Pharmaceuticals is a research and development company that uses its novel chemistry approach and drug discovery capabilities to create best in class small molecule drugs in the anti-infective field. The heart of Enanta is its commitment to innovative chemistry that surpasses traditional medicinal chemistry approaches. The Company's successful integration of chemistry with biology has created a new class of macrolide and ketolide antibiotics that overcome bacterial resistance. Additionally, Enanta has discovered antiviral agents targeted against the Hepatitis C virus (HCV). Enanta is a privately held company with offices in Watertown, MA. More information about the company can be found at <http://www.enanta.com>.

For Investor Relations, please contact:

Paul Mellett

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

(617) 607-0761

pmellett@enanta.com

For Public Relations, please contact MacDougall Biocommunications:

Kari Lampka

(508) 647-0209

kari@macbiocom.com