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Affinium presents preclinical data and high resolution 3D structures on specific spectrum agents for Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Researchers present 4 posters and give presentation at the 44th Annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy meeting in Washington

TORONTO, CANADA (October 29, 2004) – Affinium Pharmaceuticals, a structure guided drug discovery and development company, said researchers will present studies of potent antibacterial agents at the 44th annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy meeting in Washington, D.C. These inhibitors of fatty acid biosynthesis, amongst the most potent known antibiotics for MRSA, represent the potential for design of a novel class of antibiotics that operate via a biochemical pathway not previously targeted.

The presentations highlight the integrated drug discovery methods developed at Affinium to maximize the productivity of medicinal chemistry efforts via input from molecular modeling, structural biology, microbiology, biochemistry, and preclinical analysis. Affinium's integrated approach yields chemical matter that not only demonstrates high potency, but has drug-like properties that have exceptional potential to produce therapeutic results in the clinic. With MIC's and known activities much more potent than that of current antibiotics, the compounds have the potential to combat "superbugs" that are resistant to current available treatments.

Among the work to be presented at ICAAC 2004 by Affinium is the first reported structure of *Staphylococcus aureus* FabI. The unveiling of critical conserved residues in the active site has led to the design and synthesis of potent, soluble compounds which have accelerated the discovery and development of this novel class of antibacterial agents. This structure has provided insights into the discovery of specific spectrum agents that can effectively target pathogenic bacteria.

Dr. Judd Berman, Affinium's Senior Vice President for Chemistry, said, "These presentations illustrate the strength and versatility of Affinium's scientists and our structure guided drug discovery capabilities. To the best of our knowledge, Affinium scientists have achieved the first *Staphylococcus aureus* high resolution 3D structures of this target. Our structure guided discovery capabilities are perfectly suited to rapidly advancing novel antibiotics specifically to treat infections from antibiotic resistant microorganisms."

Affinium Pharmaceuticals is a structure guided drug discovery and development company. The Company's proprietary, integrated R&D engine enables rapid advancement of internal and partnered small molecule programs via high throughput target production, determination of target function, and visualization of target structure with bound hits and leads to accelerate chemistry. Affinium's pharmaceutical pipeline includes over 400 proprietary targets, novel classes of anti-infective compounds, and proprietary programs in the areas of infectious and other human disease. Partners and collaborators of Affinium include multinational pharmaceutical companies, such as Pfizer. Investors in the Company include Genesys Capital Partners, Lombard Odier Danier Hentsch & Cie, Schweizerhall Investments, and HBM Partners.

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