



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TSX-V: PGA**

## **PACGEN COMPLETES PATIENT RECRUITMENT FOR PHASE II DOSE RANGING TRIAL OF NOVEL ANTI-FUNGAL DRUG**

**Vancouver, BC, Canada (April 15, 2008)** – Pacgen Biopharmaceuticals Corporation (“Pacgen”) (TSX-V: PGA) announced today that it has completed the recruitment of patients in its Phase IIb dose-ranging clinical trial for PAC-113, a novel treatment for oral Candidiasis infection. The Company is on track to report final results from this study in June 2008.

PAC-113 is a peptide-based anti-fungal targeting oral candida infections in immunocompromised patients. The Phase IIb dose-ranging clinical trial of PAC-113 is being conducted at sites in the United States and South Africa and has now successfully recruited over 200 seropositive HIV patients with oral Candidiasis. The trial will establish the efficacy for PAC-113 in eliminating clinical signs and symptoms of oral candidiasis, as well as provide an optimal dosing level for Phase III pivotal trials. Further safety and tolerance of PAC-113 administered orally and microbiological response of *Candida albicans* to PAC-113 will also be evaluated.

The Phase IIb dose-ranging clinical trial is a randomized, examiner-blinded, parallel design trial comparing three different doses of PAC-113 to Nystatin, consisting of 2 week treatment phase and 2 week post-treatment/follow up phase. Nystatin is a widely used, topical mouth rinse treatment for oral Candidiasis.

### **About PAC-113**

PAC-113 is a 12 amino-acid antimicrobial peptide derived from a naturally occurring histatin protein found in human saliva. This peptide alters the permeability of fungal cell membranes causing cell death. In addition, PAC-113 also interacts with fungal mitochondria causing production of reactive oxygen species that lead to fungal cell destruction. PAC-113 is formulated as a pleasant tasting, sugar-free mouth rinse.

### **About Candida Infection**

*Candida albicans* is the most common fungal pathogen among immune-compromised, hospitalized patients, accounting for roughly 50-60% of all bloodstream fungal isolates. Opportunistic growth of *Candida* can be life-threatening if not treated.

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Oropharyngeal Candidiasis, also referred to as "thrush", is a local infection seen in patients treated with antibiotics or steroids, chemotherapy, or radiation therapy to the head and neck, and those with cellular immune deficiency states, such as HIV and AIDS. Patients with xerostomia and those treated with inhaled corticosteroids for asthma or rhinitis are also at risk. Oropharyngeal Candidiasis infection can cause great discomfort, and if not treated, can spread from the primary site of infection through the blood stream to cause a disseminated infection. Disseminated fungal infections are associated with a high mortality rate. Current treatments for Candida infections may not be entirely effective in eliminating the infection, can have serious side effects and potential for drug interaction, and/or do not prevent the development of drug-resistant fungal infection.

The demand for effective anti-fungals is driven by a rising incidence of immunocompromised patient populations including individuals with HIV, cancer, asthma and diabetes, among others. In 2004, global sales of topical anti-fungal drugs represented nearly a US \$1.6 billion dollar market, and it is projected to grow to US \$2.1 billion by 2009. Pacgen estimates that the current worldwide market opportunity for a novel, safe and effective, oral Candidiasis therapy is approximately US \$250 million.

## **About Pacgen**

Pacgen is a life sciences company focused on the development of therapeutics for the treatment of infectious and inflammatory diseases. The Company's lead product, PAC-113, is an anti-fungal in a Phase II clinical program. Pacgen also has candidates in an early stage research program. The most advanced of these candidates is a novel peptide therapeutic, PAC-G31P, which is currently being investigated in preclinical studies for its potential to treat inflammatory diseases characterized by non-beneficial neutrophil recruitment and activation. For additional information, please visit [www.pacgenbiopharm.com](http://www.pacgenbiopharm.com).

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## **Forward looking Statements**

Certain statements included in this press release may be considered forward-looking. Statements relating to, among other things, anticipated financial performance, business prospects, strategies, regulatory developments, market acceptance and future commitments constitute forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements are based on Pacgen's current beliefs and expectations as well as assumptions relating to the successful and timely completion of its ongoing Phase II clinical trial and pre-clinical studies, the time and process required to obtain regulatory approval for commercialization of its product, the ability of Pacgen to raise additional capital in future on favourable terms, the impact of competitive products and pricing in the market, new product development, and the successful and timely completion of corporate collaborations or licensing arrangements for its research programs. Such statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from those implied by such statements, and therefore these statements should not be read as guarantees of future performance or results. Such factors include, among others, our stage of development, lack of product revenues, additional capital requirements, risk associated with completion of clinical trials and obtaining regulatory approval, dependence on collaborate partners, and our ability to protect our intellectual property. Wherever possible, words such as "anticipate", "believe", "expect", "may", "could", "will", "potential", "intend", "estimate", "should", "plan", "predict", "project" or the negative or other variations of such expressions reflect Pacgen's current beliefs and assumptions and are based on the information currently available to Pacgen. Certain risks and uncertainties, including those risk factors identified by Pacgen in its annual information form dated August 1, 2007, may cause our actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from those implied by forward looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which are made only as of the date of this press release. Pacgen disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. For all forward-looking statements, Pacgen claims the safe harbour for forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Legislation Reform Act of 1995.

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For further information contact:

Duffy DuFresne  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Tel: 604-629-3382  
Email: [ddufresne@pacgenbiopharm.com](mailto:ddufresne@pacgenbiopharm.com)

Christina Yip  
Chief Financial Officer  
Tel: 604-629-3383  
Email: [cyip@pacgenbiopharm.com](mailto:cyip@pacgenbiopharm.com)