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MICROBIA ANNOUNCES EVIDENCE THAT MD-1100 HAS POTENTIAL TO ALLEVIATE PAIN ASSOCIATED WITH IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

—Data to be Presented Today at the 69th American College of Gastroenterology Annual Scientific Meeting—

ORLANDO, Fla., November 2, 2004—Microbia, Inc. today will present preclinical data demonstrating that MD-1100, its novel-mechanism therapeutic candidate for the treatment of constipation-predominant irritable bowel syndrome (c-IBS), effectively decreases gastrointestinal pain in multiple preclinical models. Gastrointestinal pain is a defining attribute of IBS and is the key symptom that motivates IBS sufferers to seek medical treatment. MD-1100, an orally delivered compound, is a potent superagonist of guanylate cyclase-C, a receptor found on the surface of intestinal cells. Designed by the Microbia drug discovery team, MD-1100 promotes gastrointestinal transit and secretion and specifically alleviates gastrointestinal pain. Microbia recently entered MD-1100 into Phase I clinical studies as a therapeutic candidate with the potential to treat irritable bowel syndrome.

Microbia researchers will present findings today at the 69th American College of Gastroenterology Annual Scientific Meeting demonstrating that MD-1100 potently alleviated pain in robust preclinical models of both inflammation- and stress-induced gastrointestinal hypersensitivity. These well-established models mimic the intestinal sensitivity and pain suffered by IBS patients.

“We are very encouraged by our preclinical data showing that MD-1100 decreases gastrointestinal pain, which can be agonizing for those suffering from IBS,” said Mark Currie, Ph.D., Vice President of Research and Development at Microbia. “We believe these new data, coupled with data indicating that MD-1100 enhances intestinal transit and secretory activity with very low systemic exposure, suggest a product with a desired profile that may address the current gap in effective treatments for c-IBS.”

About Irritable Bowel Syndrome

One out of six adults in developed countries suffers from irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), a chronic condition marked by abdominal pain and disturbed bowel function. IBS accounts for 12% of adult visits

to primary care physicians and is the most common disorder diagnosed by gastroenterologists. Health care costs associated with IBS exceed \$25 billion annually. Of the three IBS subgroups—constipation-predominant (c-IBS), diarrhea-predominant (d-IBS), and alternating (a-IBS)—30% to 40% of patients suffer from c-IBS. There are currently few available therapies to treat the symptoms of IBS.

ABOUT MICROBIA

Microbia (www.microbia.com) creates and develops innovative human medicines. The Company is advancing four novel drug candidates—treatments for gastrointestinal disorders, dyslipidemia, pain, and fungal infections. Microbia's Precision Engineering™ business unit generates cash to fund the therapeutics effort by improving biomanufacturing efficiencies for leading pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturers. Microbia has raised \$99 million of equity capital and is located in Cambridge, Mass.

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