



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Corporate Inquiries:

Susan Brady
Microbia, Inc.
617 | 621-8304
sbrady@microbia.com

Media Inquiries:

Kelly Lindenboom
Biosector 2
212 | 845-5622
klindenboom@biosector2.com

MICROBIA INITIATES PHASE I CLINICAL TESTING FOR NEXT-GENERATION COMPOUND FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIGH CHOLESTEROL

—Novel agent, MD-0727, is specifically designed to target the intestine—

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., September 15, 2005— Microbia, Inc. today announced the initiation of Phase I clinical testing of MD-0727, a novel, potent cholesterol absorption inhibitor (CAI) under investigation for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia (high cholesterol). This is the first molecule to enter clinical testing from Microbia's cardiovascular research program. The objectives of the Phase I program are to evaluate the safety, tolerability, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamic activity of MD-0727 in healthy volunteers.

In preclinical testing using predictive hypercholesterolemia models, MD-0727 has proven to be a potent inhibitor of cholesterol absorption. Microbia scientists designed MD-0727 to directly inhibit cholesterol transport at the intestinal surface while limiting systemic exposure. The minimal systemic exposure of MD-0727 could potentially translate into safety and efficacy advantages for patients.

“With MD-0727 entering human trials under an IND, we realize a significant company goal of advancing our cardiovascular program into clinical development,” said Peter Hecht, chief executive officer at Microbia. “Further, MD-0727 represents a major advance in our continued corporate mission of discovering and developing innovative medicines in important markets with the potential to make a positive difference in patients' lives.”

About Cholesterol Absorption Inhibitors (CAIs)

CAIs work in a unique manner compared with traditional cholesterol medications known as statins. CAIs reduce the amount of cholesterol absorbed from the digestive tract, whereas statins inhibit the production of cholesterol in the liver. Studies have shown combining CAIs with statins can result in greater cholesterol lowering than is achieved using either therapy alone.

About Cardiovascular Disease and High Cholesterol

The National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute reports high blood cholesterol is one of the major risk factors for heart disease, which is the leading cause of death in the United States and Europe. According to the

American Heart Association, nearly 107 million American adults have total blood cholesterol values that could benefit from treatment.

Drug therapies that lower cholesterol reduce mortality and result in significant improvements in patients' cardiovascular health. The cholesterol product sector exceeded \$25 billion in sales in 2004 and continues to show significant growth, fueled by multiple published clinical studies demonstrating the benefits of more aggressive cholesterol-lowering therapies. These studies led to the recent introduction of more aggressive cholesterol-management guidelines by the National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP).

ABOUT MICROBIA

Microbia (www.microbia.com) is an entrepreneurial pharmaceutical company dedicated to the science and art of great drugmaking. Two of the Company's drug candidates are in clinical studies—MD-1100 for the treatment of IBS-C and other gastrointestinal disorders, and MD-0727 for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia. Our Precision Engineering™ business unit collaborates with leading pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturers to improve efficiencies of existing fermentation processes or to create new bioprocesses. Microbia has raised \$99 million in private equity financing and is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

#