



MICROBIA

*Creating & developing
innovative human medicines*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHRISTOPHER T. WALSH, PH.D., JOINS MICROBIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS;
WALSH, HALUSHKA, & COREY NAMED TO NEWLY FORMED
PHARMACEUTICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

—Walsh to Chair PAC—

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., January 13, 2004—Microbia, Inc. today announced that Christopher T. Walsh, Ph.D., has joined the Company's Board of Directors. Walsh is the Hamilton Kuhn Professor of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Harvard Medical School. In a related development, Microbia announced that it has established a Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee (PAC) and named Walsh as Chair. Also appointed to the committee were Perry Halushka, Ph.D., M.D., Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and a Professor of Pharmacology and Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina; and Elias James (E. J.) Corey, Ph.D., the Sheldon Emery Research Professor of Chemistry at Harvard University and 1990 Nobel laureate for Chemistry.

“Chris Walsh is an outstanding addition to our board, for his deep and diversified scientific knowledge and insight, his operating experience running large and small organizations, and his substantial commercial expertise gained advising world-leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies,” said Peter Hecht, CEO of Microbia.

Microbia's discovery process pivots on integrating the most successful drugmaking practices of the past with the best of today's leading-edge technologies. The Company's novel-mechanism antifungal drug program provided the proving ground for Microbia's drugmaking process. As the Company now applies that process to create drug candidates for gastrointestinal indications and pain/inflammation, the newly established PAC will serve as an outside group of unique thought leaders that will provide scientific and medical advice to Microbia's management team and guide the further development of Microbia's therapeutics pipeline and the Company's distinctive approach for creating and selecting breakthrough human medicines.

“Chris, Perry, and E.J. are a truly potent combination for our PAC. All three are universally recognized as luminaries in their fields of research, and all three are unusual for their breadth of experience in the commercial realm from years of experience working intimately with some of the best companies in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. We're very pleased that Dr. Walsh, Dr. Halushka, and Professor Corey are committed to working with us.”

“Microbia has assembled outstanding talent with proven success in getting important novel medicines to market—there are, at most, a handful of biotechnology companies with this caliber of drugmaking potential,”

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said Dr. Walsh. “Fusing pharmacologists, biologists, and chemists into focused teams, Microbia has already demonstrated rapid and efficient identification of some exciting new drug candidates. Perry, E.J., and I look forward to working closely with the team as they develop their existing portfolio of drug candidates and focus the Microbia process on additional opportunities of major unmet medical need.”

MICROBIA PHARMACEUTICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Christopher T. Walsh, Ph.D. (Chair)

During more than 35 years of research, Dr. Walsh has become internationally recognized for his broad-ranging and fundamental insights into the catalytic mechanisms of enzymes. Most recently, his studies have focused on specific inhibitors of enzymes with therapeutic relevance, including immunosuppressive and anti-infective drugs. Previous to his current position, Dr. Walsh was President of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Chairman of the Department of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Harvard Medical School. Throughout his career, Dr. Walsh has been active in consultation on biomedical research, serving on numerous advisory boards to pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and venture capital companies focused on cancer, immunotherapy, enzyme replacement therapy, inflammation, and infectious disease. He is currently a director of Critical Therapeutics, Kosan Biosciences, Transform Pharmaceuticals, and Vicuron Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Walsh is the recipient of numerous awards including the Eli Lilly Award, the Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award, the Repligen Award, and the Bader Award. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and the author of more than 500 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals as well as two books, including the authoritative text, *Enzymatic Reaction Mechanisms*.

Perry V. Halushka, Ph.D., M.D.

Dr. Halushka is a world-renowned clinical pharmacologist recognized for his research contributions in the role of prostaglandins and thromboxanes in platelet functions and cardiovascular disease. In addition to his research, teaching, and administrative activities as Professor of Pharmacology and Medicine and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies at the Medical University of South Carolina, Dr. Halushka is a practicing physician who has served as a referring physician for the treatment of difficult-to-manage hypertensive patients for more than 25 years. Dr. Halushka served as a key scientific adviser to Searle under Dr. Philip Needleman, Chief Scientific Officer for Searle and then served on the External Scientific Advisory Board for Pharmacia. A member of numerous professional societies, associations, and editorial boards, Dr. Halushka was the first recipient of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)'s Clinical Pharmacology Award in Excellence and holds a large number of other honors, including the Burroughs Wellcome Scholar in Clinical Pharmacology Award, the William N. Creasy Award and Visiting Professor in Clinical Pharmacology, and listing in the “Best Doctors in America.” He is the author of more than 200 peer-reviewed, published scientific papers and has written more than 50 invited reviews and book chapters.

E.J. Corey, Ph.D.

E. J. Corey is widely recognized as the premier synthetic organic chemist of our time. Professor Corey has been a Professor of Chemistry since 1959 at Harvard University, where he currently is the Sheldon Emery Research Professor of Chemistry. Professor Corey is the recipient of the 1990 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the development of retrosynthetic analysis, the methodology of organic synthesis that systematized the way chemists build the complicated molecules of life in the laboratory. His studies have covered virtually all fields of organic chemistry and have had a profound impact on the development of biochemistry and modern medicinal science. Professor Corey's major contributions include the development of the fundamental logic of chemical synthesis, the invention of numerous synthetic methods, the chemical synthesis of many complex bioactive compounds, and use of computers for designing synthetic routes to create organic molecules. His work has revolutionized the ability of chemists to create efficient synthetic versions of organic chemicals in the laboratory and has improved the theoretical understanding of how these chemicals work. He has served as a consultant to Pfizer, Inc. since 1954 and is a long-term advisor to Syntex/Roche Palo Alto. He has received more than 70 international awards and honorary degrees, including the National Medal of Science in 1990. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Institutes of Medicine and is the author of almost 1,000 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

ABOUT MICROBIA

Microbia (www.microbia.com) creates and develops innovative human medicines. The Company is advancing three novel-mechanism drug candidates—a prokinetic agent for the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders, a non-narcotic analgesic for treating pain and inflammation, and an antifungal to treat life-threatening infections. Microbia's Precision Engineering™ business unit generates cash to fund the drug development effort by improving biomanufacturing efficiencies for leading pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturers. Microbia has raised \$59 million of equity capital and is located in Cambridge, Mass.