

August 22, 2012

Acura Pharmaceuticals to Present at the Stifel Nicolaus Healthcare Conference on September 5, 2012

PALATINE, IL--(Marketwire -08/22/12)- Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (<u>ACUR</u>), a specialty pharmaceutical company developing products intended to address <u>medication abuse and misuse</u>, announced today that the company will present at the Stifel Nicolaus Healthcare Conference at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston on Wednesday, September 5, 2012. Bob Jones, Acura Pharmaceuticals' Chief Executive Officer, will provide a company update at 2:40 PM Eastern Time.

During the presentation, material information concerning the Company, its operations, strategies and prospects may be discussed. A live webcast of the presentation will be available through the "<u>Investors</u>" page of Acura's website: <u>www.acurapharm.com</u>. An archived version of the presentation will be available for 30 days after the event.

Utilizing its proprietary AVERSION® and IMPEDE[™] technologies, Acura develops products intended to addressedication <u>abuse and misuse</u>. AVERSION contains polymers that cause the drug to gel when dissolved; it also contains compounds that irritate the nasal passages. IMPEDE is designed to disrupt the processing of pseudoephedrine from tablets into methamphetamine.

About Acura Pharmaceuticals

Acura Pharmaceuticals is a specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in the research, development and commercialization of product candidates intended to address <u>medication abuse and misuse</u>, utilizing its proprietary AVERSION® and IMPEDE[™] technologies. In June 2011, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved OXECTA® which incorporates the AVERSION technology. The Company has a development pipeline of additional AVERSION technology products including other opioids and its IMPEDE technology for pseudoephedrine hydrochloride products.

The trademark OXECTA® is owned by Pfizer Inc.

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