



**AcelRx Pharmaceuticals Hires Mark Evashenk as
Vice President of Clinical Operations**

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., March 6, 2009 -- AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced today it has hired Mark Evashenk as Vice President, Clinical Operations. In this new position, Mr. Evashenk will assist in defining developmental strategy, guiding clinical protocol design and study conduct, and managing risk assessment. He will report to Dr. Pamela Palmer, the company's Chief Medical Officer. "We are very fortunate to continue to attract leaders in the pharmaceutical industry; Mark possesses an unparalleled breadth and depth of experience that will be of great value to AcelRx," stated Dr. Palmer. "Mark will play a vital role in overseeing all phases of clinical development, with a particular emphasis on the successful execution of studies planned for our mid- and late-stage product candidates."

Mark has over 25 years of pharmaceutical and device development experience with a focus on project management and clinical operations, most recently as Director of Clinical Operations at ALZA Corporation, a Johnson & Johnson Company. Throughout his career, Mark has managed clinical operations teams for numerous studies worldwide representing all stages of development, including registration studies supporting four successful NDA filings. Mark holds his BS in Environmental Toxicology from UC Davis.

About AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals is a privately held pharmaceutical company dedicated to the development and commercialization of new therapies for the treatment of pain and other conditions where there is an unmet need for improved safety and efficacy. The company applies its proprietary dosage form and delivery technologies to enhance the

safety, therapeutic benefit and commercial attractiveness of currently approved compounds.

For additional information about AcelRx Pharmaceuticals visit <http://www.acelrx.com>.

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