



**AcelRx Pharmaceuticals Hires Roman Skowronski, M.D., Ph.D. as Vice President
of Clinical Development**

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., January 8, 2009 -- AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced today it has hired Dr. Roman Skowronski as Vice President, Clinical Development. In this new position, Dr. Skowronski will be responsible for development and execution of clinical protocols and providing medical input and review of clinical development strategy. He will report to Dr. Pamela Palmer, the company's Chief Medical Officer.

Prior to joining AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Skowronski was Director of Clinical Development at ALZA Corporation, a Johnson & Johnson Company. He has also held clinical research and development positions at Alexza Pharmaceuticals and Stanford University School of Medicine.

"We are extremely pleased to have recruited a candidate of Roman's caliber" stated Pamela Palmer, MD, PhD. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the management of analgesic drug development programs as well as drug-device combination products."

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is an emerging specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the treatment of intermittent and acute medical conditions, with an initial emphasis on pain management.

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