



DRAFT – NOT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Cerexa, Inc.

Stan Abel

(510) 747-3911

seabel@cerexa.com

Noonan Russo

Jane Petrino

(212) 845-4274

jane.petrino@eurorscg.com

Cerexa, Inc. Initiates Phase 2 Clinical Trial of PPI-0903

ALAMEDA, Calif., October 19, 2005 – Cerexa, Inc. (www.cerexa.com) today announced the initiation of patient enrollment in a Phase 2 clinical study of PPI-0903, a novel broad-spectrum, next-generation cephalosporin antibiotic with excellent *in vitro* activity against methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Cerexa is investigating PPI-0903 as a potential treatment for severe bacterial infections.

“With the rapidly increasing incidence of serious and life-threatening infections caused by resistant bacteria, we are pleased to be accelerating the development of PPI-0903,” said Dennis G. Podlesak, Chief Executive Officer of Cerexa. “The clinical and preclinical results to date are very encouraging, indicating that PPI-0903 is well tolerated and has excellent broad-spectrum coverage, including potent *in vitro* activity against increasingly resistant gram-positive pathogens such as MRSA. We are fully committed to advancing PPI-0903 and to providing patients and physicians with a much needed new antibiotic for the treatment of life-threatening infections.”

The Phase 2 study in complicated skin and skin structure infections will investigate the efficacy and safety of PPI-0903 versus standard therapy in approximately 100 patients recruited from over 20 investigational centers worldwide. The primary efficacy endpoint for this study is clinical outcome at the test-of-cure visit, which occurs between 8 and 14 days after end of therapy.

About PPI-0903

PPI-0903 is a novel broad-spectrum, next-generation cephalosporin antibiotic. Cephalosporins are the most frequently prescribed class of antibiotics in the world. Unlike currently marketed cephalosporins, PPI-0903 has demonstrated *in vitro* and *in vivo* bactericidal activity against the most resistant strains of gram-positive bacteria, including MRSA and vancomycin-resistant and -intermediately susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus*. PPI-0903 has also demonstrated bactericidal activity against penicillin-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and many common gram-negative bacteria, exemplifying its potential as a broad-spectrum antibiotic. Cerexa licensed from Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited the exclusive right to develop and commercialize PPI-0903 in all countries worldwide except Japan.

About Cerexa

Cerexa, Inc., located in Alameda, California, is a biopharmaceutical company committed to developing and commercializing a growing portfolio of novel anti-infective therapies for the treatment of serious and life-threatening infections. Cerexa's lead compound is PPI-0903, a next-generation cephalosporin currently being investigated as a potential treatment for complicated skin and skin-structure infections. For additional company information, please visit www.cerexa.com.

#