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| NEWS RELEASE |

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **MIGENIX Announces Initiation of MX-226 Phase III Clinical Study**

**Vancouver, BC, CANADA & San Diego, CA, USA – August 30, 2005 –** MIGENIX Inc. (TSX: MGI; OTC: MGIFF), a clinical-stage developer of drugs for infectious and degenerative diseases, today announced the initiation of United States enrollment in a multi-national Phase III clinical study with MX-226 (also known as CPI-226), a compound in development for the prevention of catheter-related infections. The United States portion of the study is being conducted under a Special Protocol Assessment (“SPA”) reached between the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) and the Company’s development and commercialization partner for the North American and European markets, Cadence Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“Cadence”).

“The start of this confirmatory Phase III clinical trial represents a significant event in the history of our company”, stated Jim DeMesa, M.D., President and CEO of MIGENIX. “The previous statistically significant Phase III results and the SPA agreement with the FDA give us high confidence in achieving the endpoints in this second Phase III trial and advancing successfully through the regulatory approval process”.

### **About MX-226 (CPI-226) and the Catheter Infection Market**

MX-226 (omiganan pentahydrochloride 1% gel) is a novel, topical antibiotic designed to kill organisms around catheter sites that can cause infection. It is anticipated that MX-226 will be used to prevent infections related to central venous catheters (CVC) and other percutaneous medical devices, including dialysis catheters, and peripherally inserted central catheters (PICC). MX-226 is applied on the skin around the insertion site of catheters prior to the first application of a catheter dressing as well as with subsequent dressing changes which take place every few days for the duration of catheterization.

In 2003, unit sales of CVC, PICC and hemodialysis catheters in the U.S. were estimated to be 10.6 million units (globally 21.6 million units). This is projected to reach 14.7 million units in the US (globally 31.4 million units) in 2007. With an estimated average of 3-4 dressing changes per catheter, this provides up to approximately 58 million potential applications annually for MX-226 in the US and over 120 million potential applications globally by the time the product is launched.

### **About the Phase III Trial**

The confirmatory second Phase III trial is a multi-national, randomized, Evaluation Committee-blinded study to evaluate the effectiveness of MX-226 vs. 10% povidone-iodine for the prevention of catheter-related infections in approximately 1,250 hospitalized patients with central venous catheters. The primary efficacy endpoint of the study will be the incidence of local catheter site infections. Other secondary objectives of this study include assessing the effectiveness of MX-226 on the prevention of catheter colonization and gathering additional safety data on MX-226. In the first MX-226 Phase III study with over 1,400 patients, high statistical significance was achieved in reducing local catheter site infections ( $p=0.004$ ; 49% reduction) and catheter colonization ( $p=0.002$ ; 21% reduction) compared to the standard of care, povidone-iodine.

### **Development and Collaboration Agreement with Cadence**

In July 2004, MIGENIX licensed to Cadence certain rights to MX-226 (known as CPI-226 at Cadence) for the North American and European markets in a deal totaling US\$32 million before a double-digit royalty on net sales. Additionally, Cadence is responsible for manufacturing and the clinical, regulatory, and commercialization costs related to MX-226. MIGENIX and Cadence have formed a Joint Development Management Committee to oversee the development of MX-226. Cadence is a San Diego-based specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of therapeutics utilized primarily in the hospital setting. Cadence is backed by a syndicate of leading healthcare-focused venture capital firms, including Domain Associates, ProQuest Investments, Windamere Venture Partners and CDIB Bioscience.

## About MIGENIX

MIGENIX is committed to advancing therapy, improving health, and enriching life by developing and commercializing drugs in the areas of infectious and degenerative diseases. The Company's clinical programs include drug candidates for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C infections (Phase II), the prevention of catheter-related infections (Phase III), the treatment of neurodegenerative disease (Phase I) and the treatment of acne (Phase II). MIGENIX is headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada with US operations in San Diego, California. Additional information can be found at [www.migenix.com](http://www.migenix.com).

### "Jim DeMesa"

James M. DeMesa, M.D.  
President & CEO

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Certain statements in this news release constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. Forward-looking statements in this release include, but are not limited to: achieving the endpoints in the second MX-226 phase III study and advancing successfully through the regulatory process; and up to approximately 58 million potential applications annually for MX-226 in the US and over 120 million potential applications globally by the time MX-226 could be launched. These statements are only predictions and actual events or results may differ materially. Factors that could cause such actual events or results expressed or implied by such forward looking statements to differ materially from any future results expressed or implied by such statements include, but are not limited to: government regulation; dependence on corporate collaborations; related to early stage of technology and product development; future capital needs; uncertainty of future funding; uncertainties management of growth; dependence on key personnel; dependence on proprietary technology and uncertainty of patent protection; intense competition; and manufacturing and market uncertainties. These and other factors are described in detail in the Company's Annual Information Form and Annual Report on Form 20-F, forthcoming news releases and other filings with the Canadian securities regulatory authorities and the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission. Forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations and Micrologix is not obligated to update such information to reflect later events or developments.

The Toronto Stock Exchange has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.