



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MICROLOGIX COMPLETES MBI 594AN PHASE IIb ACNE TRIAL**  
*Results Expected In 5-8 Weeks*

**Vancouver, BC, CANADA – September 30, 2003** – Micrologix Biotech Inc. (TSX: MBI; OTC: MGIXF), a developer of anti-infective drugs, has completed treatment of all patients in its Phase IIb clinical trial of MBI 594AN, a novel, antimicrobial peptide under development for the treatment of acne. More than 250 patients were enrolled in the trial. Results of the Phase IIb study are expected to be available in 5-8 weeks.

**About the Phase IIb Trial**

The Phase IIb trial is a randomized, double-blind, vehicle (placebo)-controlled, dose-ranging efficacy study in acne patients treated twice daily for 12 weeks with either the placebo or one of two dose levels of MBI 594AN (2.5% and 1.25%). The trial was conducted at 9 centers in the United States. The activity of MBI 594AN will be assessed based on reduction of acne lesion counts and Physician's Global Assessment of each patient during the study. The primary endpoint in the study is a reduction in inflammatory lesions. In addition, the safety and local tolerability of the drug will be assessed.

**Background on Acne**

It is estimated that 45 million people in the United States have acne, which is the most common skin disorder of adolescence and early adulthood (ages 15-24 years) with a prevalence of approximately 85%. The U.S. market for prescription acne medications was approximately \$1.2 billion in 2001 and is forecasted to increase to \$1.9 billion by 2006. Prescription medications available for the treatment of acne in the U.S. can be divided into topical therapies (approximately a \$600 million market) and systemic (oral) therapies (approximately a \$600 million market). Generally, mild to moderate cases are treated with topical medications, with more severe cases being treated with systemic or a combination of topical and systemic therapies. The global market for prescription anti-acne products reached \$2.0 billion in 2001 and is forecast to reach revenues of \$3.3 billion in 2006.

Prescription drugs for acne treatment or prevention fall into three general categories: antibiotics, retinoids, and drugs that affect hormone levels. Problems exist with most of these treatment options. Antibiotics are not as useful as they once were as *Propionibacterium acnes* (*P. acnes*), the bacteria most commonly associated with acne, has developed resistance to many antibiotics. A significant market opportunity exists for an innovative, effective, and safe topical agent that has no side effects and avoids the problem of antibiotic resistance.

**Previous Clinical Trial Results Phase IIa Study**

In a six-week randomized, double-blind study in 75 acne patients, with twice-daily dosing, using either one of two formulations of MBI 594AN (2.5% and 5%) or the product's alcohol-based vehicle alone ("placebo"). The trial was designed to provide an indication of efficacy (proof of concept) and to assess safety and tolerability, without being powered for statistical significance. In summary, the data showed:

- Approximately a 44% and 41% reduction in inflammatory acne lesion counts in MBI 594AN 2.5% and 5% treated groups respectively, compared with 24% for the placebo group.
- Approximately a 31% and 25% reduction in total acne lesion counts (inflammatory and non-inflammatory lesions combined) in the MBI 594AN 2.5% and 5% treated groups respectively, compared with approximately a 14% reduction for the placebo. The MBI 594AN 2.5% result was statistically significant, in spite of the small study size and not being powered for statistical significance.
- No discernible dose response: MBI 594AN 2.5% was as effective as MBI 594AN 5%.

- Well tolerated: there were no serious drug-related adverse events. Dryness of the skin was reported as the most common side effect.

**About Micrologix**

Micrologix Biotech Inc. is engaged in the research, development, and commercialization of drugs that advance therapy, improve health, and enrich lives. The Company's focus is toward anti-infective drug development with three product candidates in human clinical development, multiple product opportunities in preclinical development, and several early-stage technologies in various stages of research and evaluation.

“Jim DeMesa”

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