



September 15, 1999

Neurocrine Biosciences and Arena Pharmaceuticals Announce Receptor Collaboration

SAN DIEGO, Sept. 15 /PRNewswire/ -- Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc. (Nasdaq: NBIX) and Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ("Arena"), a privately held biopharmaceutical company, today announced a collaboration involving the application of Arena's constitutive activation technology to three Neurocrine orphan G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs). The collaboration also includes the opportunity for screening of the constitutively activated Neurocrine orphan GPCRs by Arena using Arena's in-house chemical library, or using Neurocrine's in-house chemical library, for the direct identification of small molecule modulators of the activated GPCRs. These modulators may be useful as leads for the development of GPCR-based therapeutics.

"Orphan receptors provide great opportunities for new discoveries in biology and neuroscience and can become novel drug targets. Neurocrine has discovered several orphan receptors and Arena's proprietary technology will allow us to maximize our evaluation of these potential drug targets and provide strategies to screen these receptors for small molecule agonists and antagonists," said Paul Conlon, Vice President of Drug Discovery at Neurocrine Biosciences.

Founded in April of 1997, Arena is primarily focused on the discovery and development of novel therapeutic modulators of GPCRs, using its proprietary CART Technology. CART allows for the direct identification of such modulators at these receptors in a ligand-independent manner, making the technology particularly useful with respect to the over 2,000 orphan GPCRs that are estimated to be a part of the human genome. Such ligand independent screening is made possible by genetic alteration of receptors, using routinely applicable, and proprietary, genetic cassettes.

Neurocrine Biosciences is a leading neuroscience company focused on the discovery and development of novel therapeutics for neuropsychiatric, neuroinflammatory and neurodegenerative diseases and disorders. The Company's neuroscience, endocrine and immunology disciplines provide a unique biological understanding of the molecular interaction between central nervous, immune and endocrine systems for the development of therapeutic interventions for anxiety, depression, Alzheimer's disease, insomnia, stroke, malignant brain tumors, multiple sclerosis, obesity and diabetes.

Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc. news releases are available free of charge through PR Newswire's Company News On-Call fax service. For a menu of Neurocrine's previous releases, or to receive a specific release via fax call: (800) 758-5804, ext. 604138, or use the Internet via <http://www.prnewswire.com>.

In addition to historical facts, this press release contains forward looking statements that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward looking statements are risks and uncertainties associated with Neurocrine's research and development programs and business and finances including, but not limited to, risks and uncertainties associated with, or arising out of, drug discovery, pre-clinical and clinical development of products including risk that research may not generate development candidates, development candidates will not successfully proceed through early clinical trials or that in later stage clinical trials will not show that they are effective in treating humans; determinations by regulatory and governmental authorities; changes in relationships with strategic partners and dependence upon strategic partners for performance of clinical and commercialization activities under collaborative agreements including potential for any collaboration agreement to be terminated without any product success; uncertainties relating to patent protection and intellectual property rights of third parties; impact of competitive products and technological changes; availability of capital and cost of capital; and other material risks. A more complete description of these risks can be found in the Company's Form 10K for the year ended December 31, 1998 and the current form 10Q each of which should be read before making any investment in Neurocrine common stock. Neurocrine undertakes no obligation to update the statements contained in this press release after the date hereof.

SOURCE:

Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc.; Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Web Site: <http://www.neurocrine.com>

Company News On Call: <http://www.prnewswire.com/comp/604138.html> or fax, 800-758-5804, ext. 604138

CONTACT:

Elizabeth Foster or Paul Hawran, 858-658-7600, both of Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc.;

or Jack Lief, President & CEO of Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 858-453-7200