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Santhera to Implement Named Patient Program for Catena® in Europe

Liestal, Switzerland, August 31, 2009 – Santhera Pharmaceuticals (SIX: SANN), a Swiss specialty pharmaceutical company focused on orphan neuromuscular diseases, announced today that Catena® will be made available on a named patient basis in Europe. Santhera's Named Patient Program (NPP) allows healthcare professionals to prescribe the drug to individual patients. Santhera has established this program to bridge the time until the drug is registered in the European Union and in Switzerland. The Catena® NPP will be managed by Idis, a global leader in the development and implementation of such programs.

Catena® is approved in Canada to treat the symptoms of Friedreich's Ataxia. Santhera has already established an NPP for countries outside of the European Union, Switzerland and North America to meet individual requests for Catena®. The extension of this program into Europe is of particular importance for patients and physicians waiting for the marketing authorization of the drug. The NPP is in accordance with Takeda, who will market the drug under the brand name Sovrima® once it is finally approved by the health authorities in the European Union and in Switzerland. Idis will manage the distribution of the Catena® NPP in the European Union and in Switzerland where the drug is not yet approved. Eligible patients need a prescription from a physician and individual reimbursement secured.

Under an NPP physicians can legally prescribe investigational drugs to qualifying patients on an individual basis. Such drugs can be administered to individual patients who are suffering from serious illnesses and have no other treatment options prior to the drug being approved. Among others, beneficiaries of the Catena® NPP may be participants in the ongoing MICONOS Phase III study who complete the two-year open-label study extension. Investigators have expressed high interest in keeping their patients on treatment with the drug.

"Named Patient Programs are developed for patients who are in need of investigational treatments that show promising results in clinical studies, to bridge the time until regulatory approval is received," commented Klaus Schollmeier, Chief Executive Officer of Santhera. "Responding to inquiries from physicians and patients, we are now making Catena® available in Europe at the prescriber's request, while we continue to work towards the approval of Sovrima®. We expect to report results from our MICONOS Phase III study in the first half of 2010."

Santhera Extends Named-Patient Program for Catena® into Europe

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Contact information for the Catena® Named Patient Program

Licensed healthcare professionals in Europe interested in Catena® should contact Idis, telephone +44 1932 824 100, fax +44 1932 824 300, email customerservices@idispharma.com.

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About Santhera

Santhera Pharmaceuticals (SIX: SANN) is a Swiss specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of small-molecule pharmaceutical products for the treatment of severe neuromuscular diseases, an area of high unmet medical need which includes many orphan indications with no current therapy. Santhera's first product, Catena® to treat Friedreich's Ataxia, is marketed in Canada and in a well-advanced Phase III development program. Recently published study results show that the Company's second compound JP-1730/fipamezole is efficacious in reducing levodopa-induced Dyskinesia in Parkinson's Disease. For further information, please visit the Company's web site www.santhera.com.

Catena® is a trademark of Santhera Pharmaceuticals.

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