



DURECT Corporation Presenting at the Techvest 3rd Annual Healthcare Conference

CUPERTINO, Calif., Oct 16, 2001 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ — DURECT Corporation (Nasdaq: DRRX) announced today that it will present on technologies for targeted drug delivery at the Techvest 3rd Annual Conference on Tissue Repair, Replacement and Regeneration (TR3). The conference is scheduled for October 23rd and 24th at the Hilton New York. Randolph M. Johnson, Ph.D., Vice President of Preclinical Research and Director of Central Nervous System Programs at DURECT will be presenting at the conference on Wednesday, October 24, 2001 at 2:20 p.m. EDT.

The presentation will be webcast live from the Techvest 3rd Annual Healthcare Conference. The webcast (audio only) will be available on DURECT's website at <http://www.durect.com> under the Calendar of Event section of "Investor Relations." The presentation will also be available for replay on DURECT's website for a period of 30 days after the conference. To join DURECT's email alert service and receive advance notice of these and other events, please register by selecting "Email Alerts" on the main Investor Relations web page at <http://www.durect.com>.

DURECT Corporation is pioneering the development and commercialization of pharmaceutical systems for the treatment of chronic debilitating diseases and enabling biotechnology-based pharmaceutical products. DURECT's goal is to deliver the right drug to the right site in the right amount at the right time. DURECT's pharmaceutical systems combine technology innovations from the medical device and drug delivery industries with proprietary pharmaceutical and biotechnology drug formulations. These capabilities can enable new drug therapies or optimize existing therapies based on a broad range of compounds, including small molecule pharmaceuticals as well as biotechnology molecules such as proteins, peptides and genes. DURECT focuses on the treatment of chronic diseases including pain, CNS disorders, cardiovascular disease and cancer. DURECT is holding an exclusive license from ALZA Corporation to develop and commercialize products in selected fields based on the DUROS(R) implant technology. Chronogesic(TM), a 3-month continuous infusion subcutaneous implant for the treatment of chronic pain, is the first product in this series and completed phase II testing in June, 2001. DURECT also owns three proprietary erodible implant platform technologies, including SABER(TM), a patented and versatile depot injectable useful for protein delivery. DURECT also commercializes IntraEAR(R) catheters which have been used by physicians to treat inner ear disorders.

Founded in 1998, DURECT is headquartered in Cupertino, CA. The company's World Wide Web site can be accessed at <http://www.durect.com>. To join DURECT's email alert service, please register by selecting "Email Alerts" on the main Investor Relations web page at <http://www.durect.com>.

NOTE: Chronogesic(TM), SABER(TM) and IntraEAR(R) are trademarks of DURECT Corporation. DUROS(R) is a trademark of ALZA Corporation.

The statements in this press release regarding DURECT's products in development, product development plans, expected product benefits or potential product



markets are forward-looking statements involving risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such forward-looking statements. Potential risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, DURECT's ability to successfully complete clinical trials, develop, manufacture and commercialize its products, obtain product and manufacturing approvals from regulatory agencies, validate and qualify a manufacturing facility and manage its growth and expenses, as well as marketplace acceptance of DURECT's products. Further information regarding these and other risks is included in DURECT's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2001 filed with the SEC on August 14, 2001, and Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 filed with the SEC on March 30, 2001, under the heading "Factors that may effect future results.

SOURCE DURECT Corporation

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