DURECT Corporation Sponsors Symposium on Novel Drug Delivery Technologies at the 45th Annual Meeting of the Western Pharmacology Society (WPS)

CUPERTINO, Calif., Jan. 23 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ — DURECT Corporation (Nasdaq: DRRX) announced today that it is sponsoring a symposium on novel drug delivery technologies at the 45th Annual Meeting of the Western Pharmacology Society (WPS) being held at the Hotel El Cid in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico, January 27th through February 1st, 2002. Dr. Randolph M. Johnson, Vice President of Preclinical Research and Director of Central Nervous System Programs at DURECT is Secretary of the WPS and is Chairman of the symposium. Dr. Johnson will give a seminar on “Site-Directed and Controlled Drug Delivery.” Information about the Society meeting can be viewed at http://www.jjnet.prohosting.com/wps-2002 .

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 holds 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), MICRODUR(TM) (microspheres injectable) and DURIN(TM) (drug-loaded implants). DURECT also commercializes ALZET(R) Osmotic Pumps for research animal use, IntraEAR(R) catheters which have been used by physicians to treat inner ear disorders and PLGA based biodegradable polymers.

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

NOTE: Chronogesic(TM), SABER(TM), IntraEAR(R), MICRODUR(TM) and DURIN(TM) 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, expected product benefits, product development plans 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 research, develop, manufacture and commercialize its products, obtain product and manufacturing approvals from regulatory agencies 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 Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 11, 2001, Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001 filed with the SEC on November 13, 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 affect future results."
Chronogesic(TM) is under development by DURECT and has not been submitted or approved for commercialization by the US Food and Drug Administration or other health authorities.

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