



## **DISCOVERY LABORATORIES, INC.**

### **DISCOVERY LABORATORIES APPOINTS RONALD J. RITZ VICE PRESIDENT OF MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS**

**Doylestown, PA — July 17, 2003 — Discovery Laboratories, Inc. (Nasdaq: DSCO)**, a late-stage specialty biopharmaceutical company developing its proprietary surfactant technology as Surfactant Replacement Therapies for respiratory diseases, today announced the appointment of Ronald J. Ritz, to the position of Vice President, Manufacturing Operations. Mr. Ritz will be responsible for all manufacturing operations, reporting directly to Christopher J. Schaber, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Ritz brings more than 25 years of experience in all aspects of manufacturing for major pharmaceutical companies with an expertise in sterile, injectable drug products and liposomal production. Most recently, he held the position of Executive Director at Elan Pharmaceuticals, where he was responsible for commercial and clinical manufacturing of sterile products utilized for cancer therapeutics and for the treatment of severe fungal infections. Formerly, he held a number of increasingly senior positions at Johnson & Johnson where he was directly responsible for the production of vaccines, diagnostic blood typing & screening reagents. He also held several senior positions at The Liposome Company where he was responsible for the technology transfer and scale-up of sterile products. Mr. Ritz received his B.S. in Biology from Rutgers University and his M.B.A. in Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Christopher J. Schaber stated, “We are extremely pleased to have Ron in this critical role. Ron is responsible for establishing the clinical and commercial manufacturing processes for Discovery’s humanized, engineered surfactant products, including its lead product, Surfaxin® as well as overseeing technology transfer and validation of production processes. He brings a wealth of operations experience that should help ensure the uninterrupted supply of material for both clinical and commercial applications. Ron is currently focused on assessing additional contract manufacturers with the goal of having two alternative sources available by year-end. His extensive background in manufacturing and adherence to FDA requirements will be of great value to our company. Ron also brings firsthand experience in interacting with the FDA and MCA during facility inspections. Discovery will benefit greatly from his expertise in sterile production of liposomal products as we scale-up the manufacturing infrastructure for our humanized surfactant technology for respiratory medicine.”

#### **About Discovery Laboratories**

Discovery Laboratories, Inc. is a specialty biopharmaceutical company developing its proprietary surfactant technology as Surfactant Replacement Therapies for respiratory diseases including Respiratory Distress Syndromes, Acute Lung Injury (ALI), asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and upper airway disorders. Discovery’s surfactant technology produces an engineered version of natural human lung surfactant that is designed to precisely mimic the essential properties of human lung surfactant. Discovery believes that through its surfactant technology, pulmonary surfactants have the potential, for the first time, to be developed into a series of respiratory therapies for hospitalized and ambulatory patients. Surfaxin, Discovery’s lead product, is in Phase 3

and Phase 2 clinical trials for critical care patients with life-threatening respiratory disorders where there are few or no approved therapies available. Discovery's first aerosol surfactant product is positioned to enter clinical trials for hospital patients with severe asthma or acute lung injury. Discovery has a commercialization alliance with Quintiles Transnational Corp. and a strategic alliance with Laboratorios del Dr. Esteve S.A.

*To the extent that statements in this press release are not strictly historical, including statements as to the Company's business strategy, outlook, objectives, future milestones, plans, intentions, goals, future financial conditions, future collaboration agreements, the success of the Company's product development, or otherwise as to future events, such statements are forward-looking, and are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The forward-looking statements contained in this release are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the statements made. Among the factors which could affect the Company's actual results and could cause results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements contained herein are the risk that financial conditions may change, the risk that the Company will not be able to raise additional capital or enter into additional collaboration agreements, risks relating to the progress of the Company's research and development and the development of competing therapies and/or technologies by other companies. Those associated risks and others are further described in the Company's periodic filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission including the most recent reports on Forms 10-KSB, 8-K, 10-QSB and 10-Q, and amendments thereto.*

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