August 25, 2008

ANTHERA PHARMACEUTICALS ADVANCES GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR VARESPLADIB IN PATIENTS WITH ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME WITH THE INITIATION OF FRANCIS TRIAL

SAN MATEO, CA – August 25, 2008 – Anthera Pharmaceuticals Inc., a privately held biopharmaceutical company developing anti-inflammatory drugs, today announced the initiation of the FRANCIS (Fewer Recurrent Acute coronary events with Near-term Cardiovascular Inflammation Suppression) clinical trial designed to examine the impact of varespladib when administered to patients within 96 hours of an Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) event.

The FRANCIS trial is designed to assess the impact of oral varespladib on known biological markers of cardiovascular risk. It will enroll up to 500 patients that will be treated for a minimum of six months. The study will be conducted at sites in North America and Europe. FRANCIS will provide insight into the prevention of secondary Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events (MACE) over the duration of the trial. In this study, MACE is defined as a composite endpoint consisting of cardiovascular death, non-fatal stroke, non-fatal myocardial infarction, unstable angina, and a subset of revascularization following the initial event. During the course of the study, patients will receive therapeutic standard of care in addition to high dose Lipitor® (atorvastatin). In previous clinical trials, varespladib, a potent and highly selective inhibitor of secretory phospholipase A_2 ($sPLA_2$), has demonstrated marked improvements in independent markers of cardiovascular risk including, a near complete suppression of the target enzyme $sPLA_2$, a clinically meaningful and statistically significant reduction in "bad" LDL cholesterol, and a reduction in C-reactive protein, a known marker of inflammation.

"We are pleased with the continued progress of our varespladib cardiovascular program targeting secretory phospholipase A_2," said Paul Truex, President and Chief Executive Officer of Anthera Pharmaceuticals, Inc. "The FRANCIS trial was designed with input from global regulatory agencies and industry experts and represents the next key component of our international cardiovascular development program. The multiple therapeutic impact of varespladib's mechanism of action provides us with a unique opportunity to develop a first-in-class product targeting a life-threatening coronary event for which there are limited therapeutic options."

"Based upon the success of varespladib in two previous Phase II clinical trials in patients with cardiovascular disease in which it demonstrated lipid-lowering and anti-inflammatory benefits, we look forward to further evaluating the impact of varespladib on the hyper-inflammatory state presented by ACS patients." said Dr. James Pennington, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Anthera Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

About Acute Coronary Syndrome
Acute coronary syndrome is a heart condition characterized by chest pain occurring at rest or upon minimal exertion. This condition is also referred to as unstable angina. If the chest pain is associated with heart muscle damage and heart tracing abnormalities, it is typically classified as a heart attack or myocardial infarction.

About Anthera Pharmaceuticals
Anthera Pharmaceuticals is a privately-held company committed to developing and commercializing clinical pharmaceutical products that address unmet medical needs of patients with life-threatening, chronic and acute inflammatory diseases and autoimmune disorders. The Company has acquired from Eli Lilly and Company and Shionogi & Co., Ltd. worldwide rights (excluding Japan) to a series of clinical and pre-clinical compounds that inhibit the enzymatic activity of members of the phospholipase (PLA_2) family - a group of enzymes responsible for the release of arachidonic acid and subsequent production of leukotrienes, prostacyclins and other mediators of inflammation. These highly potent compounds inhibit novel, upstream steps in the inflammation cascade and have the potential to address a variety of diseases. The company has also acquired exclusive and worldwide rights to a peptide fusion protein, A-623, for the treatment of autoimmune diseases from Amgen. For more information, please visit www.anthera.com

INVESTOR AND MEDIA CONTACT:
Anne Bowdidge
(650) 218-6900
pr@anthera.com