Sunesis Pharmaceuticals to Present Non-Clinical Data at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research

April 9, 2008 1:42 PM ET

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., April 9, 2008, 2008 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: SNSS) today announced that the company will present data on each of its clinical-stage anticancer compounds at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) being held April 12-16 in San Diego, CA. Sunesis has built a portfolio of product candidates in oncology focused on novel pathways and targets, including inhibition of the cell cycle and survival signaling.

Data from non-clinical studies of SNS-595, SNS-032 and SNS-314 will be presented in five posters and one oral presentation during the AACR Meeting. New insights on the mechanism of action and anticancer activity of SNS-595, Sunesis' lead compound, will be featured on Monday, April 14, 2008. SNS-595 is a novel naphthyridine analog structurally related to quinolones, a class of compounds which has not been used previously for the treatment of cancer. SNS-595 both selectively intercalates DNA and inhibits topoisomerase II, resulting in replication-dependent DNA damage, irreversible G2 arrest and rapid apoptosis. A Phase 2 single agent clinical trial of SNS-595 in ovarian cancer and a Phase 1b combination clinical trial with cytarabine in relapsed/refractory acute myeloid leukemia are both ongoing.

```
SNS-595 Poster Presentations
Monday, April 14, 2008
-- SNS-595 is a potent anti-tumor agent that has a dual mechanism of
   action: DNA intercalation and site-selective topoisomerase II poisoning
   Session: Stress Responses
   Abstract #1860
   8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall B-F, San Diego Convention Center
-- Sensitivity to SNS-595 is related to activation of double strand DNA
   break repair pathways including homologous recombination
   Session: Stress Responses
   Abstract #1859
   8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall B-F, San Diego Convention Center
-- Ex vivo activity of SNS-595 against biopsies of acute myeloid leukemia,
   triple negative breast and ovarian cancers supports ongoing and
   potential clinical indications
   Session: Novel Drug Targets, Agents and Mechanisms
   Abstract #2830
   1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall B-F, San Diego Convention Center
```

Suzanne Trudel, MSc, M.D., Assistant Professor, Princess Margaret Hospital, University Health Network, will provide an oral presentation on SNS-032's preclinical activity in multiple myeloma as part of a minisymposium on Tuesday, April 15, 2008. In addition, translational research data detailing the relationship between SNS-032's mechanism and its activity in certain types of cancer will be presented in a poster. SNS-032, a potent and selective inhibitor of cyclin-dependent kinases 2, 7 and 9, is being evaluated in a Phase 1 clinical trial in patients with relapsed/refractory chronic lymphocytic leukemia or multiple myeloma.

```
SNS-032 Oral Presentation
Tuesday, April 15, 2008
-- SNS-032, a potent and selective CDK2, 7 and 9 inhibitor, demonstrates
   preclinical activity in human multiple myeloma
   Minisymposium: Novel Genomic Approaches, Drugs, Targets, and Strategies
   Abstract #4972
   4:55 p.m. to 5:10 p.m. Room 30A-C, San Diego Convention Center

SNS-032 Poster Presentation
Sunday, April 13, 2008
-- SNS-032, a novel inhibitor of cyclin-dependent kinases 2, 7, and 9,
   blocks transcription of cyclin D1 and Mcl-1, causing cell death in
```

mantle cell lymphoma cell lines
Session: Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors and Cell Cycle Inhibitors
Abstract #756
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall B-F, San Diego Convention Center

Preclinical data providing new details on SNS-314's anti-tumor activity will be presented Wednesday, April 16, 2008. SNS-314, a potent and selective pan-Aurora kinase inhibitor, is being studied in a Phase 1 dose-escalating clinical trial in patients with advanced solid tumors.

SNS-314 Poster Presentation
Wednesday, April 16, 2008
-- SNS-314, a potent inhibitor of Aurora kinases, has preclinical anti-activity and induces apoptosis
Session: Heat Shock Protein Inhibitors, Aurora Kinase and other Mitotic Inhibitors
Abstract #5648
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall B-F, San Diego Convention Center

About Sunesis Pharmaceuticals

Sunesis is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of novel small molecule therapeutics for oncology and other serious diseases. Sunesis has built a broad product candidate portfolio through internal discovery and in-licensing of novel cancer therapeutics. Sunesis is advancing its product candidates through in-house research and development efforts and strategic collaborations with leading pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies. For additional information on Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, please visit http://www.sunesis.com.

SOURCE Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

http://www.sunesis.com