

PHARMACY INDUSTRY EXPERT DR. TAKETOMO LAUNCHES VENTEGRASM AS AN UNPARALLELED SOLUTION TO RISING PHARMACEUTICAL COSTS; SIGNS FOUR LETTERS OF INTENT, REPRESENTING ANNUAL RX SPEND OF \$250 MILLION-PLUS

VENTEGRA'S DR. TAKETOMO: 'IF WE IMPROVE EFFICIENCIES AND PROVIDE BETTER INTEGRATION --- AFFORDABILITY, ACCESS AND QUALITY OF CARE WILL IMPROVE'

LA JOLLA, CA, November 3, 2005 – No longer willing to stand by as an observer, and eager to spearhead innovative and actionable solutions, Robert Taketomo, Pharm.D, MBA, recently launched VentegraSM to create new, more efficient channels in the delivery of healthcare. Ventegra's guiding philosophy is that by improving efficiencies and providing better integration – affordability, access, and quality of care will improve.

Ventegra has signed four Letters of Intent with regional and nationally recognized providers in the healthcare arena, representing approximately 1.2 million lives and an annualized spend in pharmaceuticals of more than \$250 million. The target implementation date is January 1, 2006.

In the first phase of business development, Ventegra is focusing upon delivery of pharmaceutical services. Transparency and flexibility will be a hallmark of the products and programs offered by Ventegra and its strategic partners. Providing pharmaceutical products at true acquisition cost, delivery programs that address the challenge with injectable pharmaceuticals, and a rebate processing system that allows control by (and disclosure to) the payor are among the programs offered.

Dr. Taketomo, Ventegra's President and CEO, says, "There is much focus on pharmaceutical companies regarding drug cost, but we're finding that many payors are unaware of the true value available to them from the industry. Ventegra enables payors to have access to 100 percent of the discounts, rebates, and all other value added programs available from pharmaceutical companies."

Adds Dr. Taketomo, "Ventegra's focus on the delivery of pharmaceutical services makes paramount both transparency and flexibility. Payors will take back *control* and choose the services that they need in order to be more efficient in lowering their healthcare costs."

Explaining why Ventegra is so unique, Dr. Taketomo says, "Ventegra was born out of the realization that the current health care environment has a lot of infrastructure inertia. This inertia results from existing business models and delivery systems that mandate that revenues are derived from businesses behaving in a certain way. These behaviors have driven fragmentation, inefficiencies, and administrative burden while doing little to improve the quality of care."

Dr. Taketomo believes that being profitable is important, but there needs to be a right balance between profitability and ensuring that patients have access to affordable healthcare. "Ventegra is a direct result of the realization that some of the

current managed care systems are experiencing a tough challenge in balancing shareholder expectations and providing good healthcare coverage.”

After working as a pharmacist for 18 years in non-profit environments, primarily hospitals like the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, St. Francis Medical Center, and Saint John’s Hospital & Health Center, Dr. Taketomo, made a move to managed care in the last 10 years that included stints at FHP, PacifiCare, and Health Net.

Dr. Taketomo received his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Southern California, and conducted his undergraduate studies at the University of California at Los Angeles. He completed a clinical residency in Pharmacokinetics at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in La Jolla, California. He earned his Masters of Business Administration from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

For more information, visit www.ventegra.NET. For business inquiries, please contact Jerry Kugler, Vice President, Business Development, 858.551.8111, Ext. 123.

ABOUT VENTEGRA

Ventegrasm is the first Contracting Service Organization (CSO), offering an innovative solution for cost efficient pharmaceutical services that maximizes the benefits for payors, providers and patients. Ventegra enables clients to manage their own pharmacy benefit program by offering an a la carte menu of services and programs from which to choose. Among the innovative programs being offered are obtaining pharmaceutical products at true acquisition cost, delivery programs that address the challenge with injectable pharmaceuticals, and a web-based rebate system that allows full transparency. www.ventegra.NET.