

## **Presidio Pharmaceuticals Adds Industry Veteran Dr. Richard Colonno as Chief Scientific Officer**

**San Francisco, CA – September 18, 2007** – Presidio Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announces today that internationally recognized virologist and antiviral drug discoverer Dr. Richard Colonno has joined the company as Chief Scientific Officer.

“Rich brings to Presidio over 25 years of experience in antiviral drug discovery and development. During his career he has been responsible for the discovery, preclinical development and clinical support of novel antiviral agents in a wide range of viral disease indications, especially HIV and viral hepatitis. Many of these agents received worldwide regulatory approval and have contributed to major advancements in the treatment of HIV and viral hepatitis around the globe,” said Dr. Omar K. Haffar, President and CEO of Presidio Pharmaceuticals. “With the addition of Rich to the management team, we have an exceptionally qualified and experienced scientist to advance our HIV and hepatitis programs forward as rapidly as possible.”

Over his career, Dr. Colonno has contributed to the development of several currently approved drugs and has led discovery efforts culminating in the advancement of clinical candidates targeting 9 distinct antiviral targets. He had a leadership role in the identification and advancement of atazanavir, a leading HIV protease inhibitor from Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS). Dr. Colonno also established BMS’ hepatitis B virus discovery program, which led to the discovery, development and commercialization of entecavir. He is a molecular virologist by training with a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. Dr. Colonno has co-authored over 135 original scientific articles on a wide variety of RNA and DNA viruses, presented to worldwide regulatory agencies, and presented his original research at major scientific and medical meetings. Dr. Colonno worked for Merck, Sharp and Dohme Research Labs, DuPont, and the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology before joining BMS, where he was most recently Vice President, Infectious Diseases Drug Discovery.

“I am very pleased and excited to be joining Presidio Pharmaceuticals at this time. I believe that Presidio has rapidly assembled an impressive portfolio of programs targeting new treatments for HIV and viral hepatitis,” said Dr. Colonno. “I look forward to applying my experience and expertise to advance the current programs and to helping Presidio identify new and promising drug candidates as the company continues to expand its pipeline.”

### **About Presidio Pharmaceuticals, Inc:**

Presidio Pharmaceuticals, Inc is a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on in-licensing, developing and commercializing novel therapeutics for chronic viral infections, including but not limited to HIV-1, CMV, and HCV. Presidio has raised over \$27 million dollars in financing from Panorama Capital (formerly JP Morgan Partners), Baker Bros Investments, Bay City Capital, Ventures West, Nexus Medical Partners, and Sagamore Bioventures. For more information, please visit our website at [www.presidiopharma.com](http://www.presidiopharma.com).

#### **Contact:**

Omar K. Haffar, Ph.D.

[omar@presidiopharma.com](mailto:omar@presidiopharma.com)

415-986-2510 ext. 221