



Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.

2440 Research Boulevard
Rockville, Maryland 20850
Phone: 301.990.0030
Fax: 301.990.0035
www.otsuka.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Debra Kaufmann
Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.
240.683.3568
debra.kaufmann@otsuka.com

Jaymie Gustafson
Zeno Group
202.336.7966
jaymie.gustafson@zenogroup.com

Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. Launches National and Local Initiatives to Eliminate Minority Health Disparities

Sponsoring National Minority Health Month Foundation Summit in April

ROCKVILLE, MD, April 26, 2005 – Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. (OAPI) today announced the Otsuka Minority Health Initiative, an on-going series of strategically integrated activities aimed at reducing inequalities in minority health care.

The U.S. Surgeon General has made it a top priority to work with communities to “reduce and eliminate health disparities between non-minority and minority populations experiencing disproportionate burdens of disease, disability and premature death.” The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services program “Health People 2010” has said racial and ethnic minority populations face barriers both in getting access to healthcare services and in the quality of care received.

“At Otsuka we take great pride in our commitment to find treatments for underserved patient populations,” said Hiromi Yoshikawa, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. “Participating in these public-private partnerships provides a meaningful way in which we can fulfill our mission and help address the urgent need to improve healthcare opportunities for minority populations.”

Otsuka is making financial and corporate commitments to organizations and initiatives at the national and local level that seek solutions to health care disparities among ethnic and racial communities. The company is a sponsor of the National Minority Health Month Foundation’s panel on mental health during the summit on racial disparities in health care.

The summit, to be held April 26 and 27 in Washington, DC, provides a forum for health care industry leaders to engage in a strategic discourse about the creation of an environment that supports efforts to improve the health status of all Americans. The two-day summit will bring together physicians, Members of Congress, community organizations, policy-makers and industry leaders during April, recognized as National Minority Health Month.

Additionally, Otsuka plans to begin work with both the state of Maryland and the National Medical Association on their advisory committees working to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities.

-more-

Other groups/activities supported through the Otsuka Minority Health Initiative include:

- American Psychiatric Foundation's Awards for Advancing Minority Mental Health
- Local initiatives including Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless and Montgomery County Mental Health Association
- Association of Black Cardiologists

"The Otsuka Minority Health Initiative is just one way Otsuka seeks to improve the health of our communities," said Yoshikawa. "Otsuka remains committed to serving the unmet medical needs of all Americans and people worldwide."

About Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. (OAPI)

Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. (OAPI) is a successful, innovative, fast-growing healthcare company that commercializes Otsuka-discovered and other product opportunities in North America. OAPI is dedicated to improving patients' health and the quality of their lives. The company is part of the Otsuka Pharmaceutical Group, which is comprised of 73 companies and approximately 23,000 people around the world. With 39 consolidated subsidiaries employing approximately 17,000 people, Otsuka earned US\$4.4 billion in consolidated annual revenues in fiscal 2003. For additional information, please visit www.otsuka.com.

##