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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FUJISAWA HEALTHCARE, INC. AND ROCHE PARTNER TO
EXPAND AVAILABILITY OF PROTOPIC**

(DEERFIELD, IL) January 26, 2003 – Fujisawa Healthcare, Inc. and Roche International, Ltd. (Roche) announced today that they have entered into an exclusive partnership agreement to expand the global presence of Protopic[®] (tacrolimus ointment), a topical ointment for the treatment of eczema. Under the agreement Roche will be responsible for the exclusive distribution and promotion of Protopic in Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Central America, and the Caribbean.

“Roche’s extensive presence in Latin America and its experience in effectively marketing novel products makes it an ideal partner for the successful expansion of Protopic in these markets,” stated Kurt Lewis, Senior Vice President, Marketing and Sales at Fujisawa Healthcare, Inc. “Through our partnership, we believe that Roche will be able to assist Fujisawa in carrying forward our global mission of contributing to healthier more prosperous lives.”

“Roche has a strong franchise in dermatology and therefore Protopic is an excellent fit. We expect this to be a successful, long term partnership in Latin America, where Roche is one of the leading companies,” stated Ernest Egli, Regional Head at Roche Latin America.

About Protopic

Protopic is the first in a new class of prescription drugs called topical immunomodulators, or TIMs, to be developed in more than 40 years for the treatment of eczema. Approved in December 2000 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, steroid-free Protopic is an ointment, the formulation preferred by dermatologists for the treatment of chronic eczema. In addition to the U.S., Protopic is currently marketed in Japan, Canada, Europe and portions of Asia.

The U.S. FDA approved Protopic for short-term and intermittent long-term therapy to treat the signs and symptoms of moderate to severe eczema. It is approved for patients for whom conventional treatments are deemed inadvisable because of the potential risks associated with them, or in patients who are not adequately responsive to or intolerant of conventional therapies.

Protopic is available in two concentrations for adults, 0.03 percent and 0.1 percent. For children ages two to 15, only the 0.03 percent concentration is indicated. There may be an increased risk of certain types of skin infections for patients using Protopic. In addition, patients should avoid direct exposure to natural or artificial sunlight and should not cover treated skin with bandages, dressings or wraps.

About Roche

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is one of the world's leading innovation-driven healthcare groups. Its core businesses are pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is number one in the global diagnostics market, the leading supplier of pharmaceuticals for cancer and a leader in virology. As a supplier of products and services for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease, the Group contributes on a broad range of fronts to improving people's health and quality of life. Roche employs roughly 65,000 people in 150 countries.

About Fujisawa Healthcare, Inc.

Fujisawa Healthcare, Inc., headquartered in Deerfield, Illinois, develops, manufactures and markets proprietary pharmaceutical products in the United States and abroad. Fujisawa Healthcare, Inc. is a subsidiary of Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., based in Osaka, Japan. Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., founded in 1894, is a leading pharmaceutical manufacturer and is actively developing its international operations in North America, Europe and Asia. Additional information on Fujisawa Healthcare, Inc. and its products can be found on the company's web site at www.fujisawa.com.

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