

## ASX / Media Release

# Ascent launches new major generic drug: Risperidone

*Ascent aligns financial year to Jan-Dec from '09 to align with international operations*

**15 December 2008, Melbourne:** Ascent Pharmahealth Limited (ASX:APH) has successfully launched its own Genepharm branded generic version of Risperidone, a leading antipsychotic prescription medication. Risperidone-GA was listed on the Commonwealth government's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 1 December 2008 coinciding with the patent expiry of this medication.

For the year to June 2007 the PBS dispensed value of Risperidone was \$76 million making it the thirteenth largest selling PBS drug.

Risperidone is an antipsychotic medication used to treat schizophrenia and related psychoses and behavioural disturbances in dementia. It can also be used to treat serious disruptive disorders in children over 5 years old and adolescents and adults with sub average intellectual functioning who suffer destructive behaviours such as aggression, impulsivity or self-injury.

Ascent will continue to launch other new major generic pharmaceuticals in 2009. In its 2008 annual report Ascent stated that it will launch over 20 new Australian generic drugs over the next three years including all the major patent expiring medicines.

### Ascent Pharmahealth changing financial year to January to December – starting 2009

From January 2009 Ascent Pharmahealth will account its financial years with calendar years.

This will align the local operations of the company with the financial reporting periods of the international business units which were acquired in August 2008. The international operations of Ascent distribute generic prescription medications in eight Asian countries. The new financial period will assist the company to more efficiently manage the financial reporting requirements of its multinational business.

This will mean that Ascent will account for a six month financial period from July to December 2008 and is likely to hold the next company annual general meeting in May 2009.

#### Inquiries:

Dennis Bastas  
Genepharm Australasia  
03 9699 2300

Rudi Michelson  
Monsoon Communications  
03 9620 3333

#### About Ascent Pharma:

Ascent Pharmahealth (ASX:APH) sells over 400 products in eight countries with annual revenues of over \$100 million. It is one of Australia's and Asia's fastest growing and most dynamic pharmaceuticals businesses. Ascent registers, markets, distributes and sells generic pharmaceuticals, consumer skincare and over-the-counter medicines. Key subsidiaries are Genepharm, one of Australia's largest generic pharmaceutical companies and Drug Houses of Australia, Singapore's largest local generic pharmaceutical company with products distributed in eight Asian countries. The company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange in 2004. For more information visit [www.ascentpharma.com.au](http://www.ascentpharma.com.au).