



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **"Xeris Pharmaceuticals Awarded \$1 Million NIH/NIDDK SBIR Grant to Advance Diabetic-Friendly Glucagon Rescue Pen through Clinical Studies"**

*Austin, Texas – November 28, 2011* - Xeris Pharmaceuticals, Inc., an Austin-based, emerging biopharmaceutical company developing patient-friendly injectable treatments for diabetes and other diseases, was recently awarded a \$1 million Phase 2 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant to advance the company's glucagon rescue pen (G-Pen™) through clinical studies as a rescue treatment for severe hypoglycemic emergencies in diabetics.

The funding will support a Phase 1-2 clinical trial to be conducted at the Texas Diabetes Institute of the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio (UTHSCSA), under the supervision of Dr. Ralph DeFronzo, an internationally-recognized diabetes researcher and clinician. The grant was awarded in late September by the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), an institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) which funds research on diabetes and other metabolic diseases.

"We're pleased to partner with the NIDDK and the UTHSCSA in support of our efforts to create an innovative treatment for severe hypoglycemia," said Dr. Steven Prestrelski, Chief Scientific Officer for Xeris Pharmaceuticals. "Hypoglycemia is a significant unmet medical need and this funding will help advance our novel formulation and delivery systems for glucagon."

Dr. John Kinzell, Xeris' CEO said, "This NIH/NIDDK grant is a significant financial milestone for our company. The funds will support a clinical study that we expect to provide validation of our technology for patient-friendly delivery of biologics (peptide and protein drugs) as used in the G-Pen™ for treating severe hypoglycemic (very low blood sugar) events in diabetics. Equally important, SBIR grants provide critical, non-dilutive funding during what continues to be a very challenging environment in which to raise capital for young biotech companies like Xeris."

#### **About Xeris**

Xeris develops patient-friendly injectable drugs based on its non-aqueous (no water) XeriJect™ and XeriSol™ formulation and delivery platforms. These platforms allow Xeris to reformulate existing drugs as highly concentrated, ultra-low-volume, and room-temperature stable compounds that do not require reconstitution. The company is utilizing its proprietary platforms to develop injectable bio-pharmaceuticals packaged in an auto-injector pen that patients and their caregivers can use at home or work. Bio-pharmaceuticals are the fastest growing category of therapeutics and are forecasted to be 6 of the top 10 drugs by 2014. The current paradigm of delivery requires nearly all of these drugs to be administered as injection or infusion, often in a clinical setting, decreasing compliance, increasing cost and providing a poor patient experience. Xeris aspires to change this paradigm by developing ultra-low volume, ready-to-use bio-pharmaceuticals delivered through patient-friendly injectable devices, many of which would be self-administered in the comfort of the patient's home. Products built on Xeris' technologies would simplify administration and ease the pain of injections, improving the experience for hundreds of millions of patients. Xeris is a member company of the Austin Technology Incubator. For more information, visit [www.xerispharma.com](http://www.xerispharma.com).

SOURCE - Xeris Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

###

Contact: Dr. John Kinzell  
[jkinzell@xerispharma.com](mailto:jkinzell@xerispharma.com)