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ARCA biopharma Appoints Derek Cole as Vice President, Investor Relations and Corporate Communications

Broomfield, Colorado, January 12, 2009 – ARCA biopharma, Inc., a privately-held biopharmaceutical company developing genetically-targeted therapies for heart failure and other cardiovascular diseases, today announced that Derek Cole has been appointed vice president, investor relations and corporate communications, effective immediately.

Mr. Cole brings to ARCA over 17 years of capital markets and strategic planning experience with 12 years of dedicated investor relations experience focused on supporting the development of small- and mid-cap companies. Mr. Cole will be responsible for the creation and implementation of strategic communications efforts that support ARCA's business objectives to all key stakeholders, including the investment community, media and employees. He will report directly to Richard B. Brewer, president and chief executive officer of ARCA.

“We are very pleased to have an experienced executive like Derek join ARCA as a key member of our management team,” said Mr. Brewer. “Derek thoroughly understands our industry and we look forward to leveraging his extensive knowledge as ARCA prepares to become a public company.”

Before joining ARCA, Mr. Cole served as vice president, investor relations and corporate communications for Allos Therapeutics, Inc. Previously he headed the investor relations and corporate communications function at Myogen, Inc., a therapeutics company focused on cardiovascular disease, from its days as a private company, through its initial public offering and continuing until its sale in November 2006. Mr. Cole is an active member of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI), currently serving on its national board of directors and as co-chair of the NIRI BioPharma roundtable steering committee, and previously served as president of the Rocky Mountain chapter. He is also on the board of directors and board executive committee of the Colorado BioScience Association.

About ARCA biopharma

ARCA biopharma, Inc. is a privately held company focused on developing and commercializing genetically targeted therapies for heart failure and other cardiovascular diseases. The Company's lead product candidate, Gencaro(TM) (bucindolol hydrochloride), is an investigational

pharmacologically unique beta-blocker and mild vasodilator being developed for heart failure and other indications. ARCA has identified common genetic variations that predict individual patient response to Gencaro. The New Drug Application for Gencaro, including the proposed brand name, is currently under review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. ARCA has partnered with Laboratory Corporation of America to develop the companion genetic test for Gencaro. For more information please visit <http://www.arcabiopharma.com>.

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