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**NEWSRELEASE**

**NephroGenex Announces Appointment of Dr. Mark A. Klausner  
as Chief Medical Officer**

*Cary, N.C. – January 2, 2008.* NephroGenex, Inc, a privately held drug development company focusing on kidney disease, announced that Mark A. Klausner, M.D. has been appointed Chief Medical Officer.

Dr. Klausner is a nephrologist with over 20 years of industry experience, most recently in a variety of diverse roles and leadership positions within the pharmaceutical sector at Johnson & Johnson. His most recent position was as Vice President and Franchise Medical Leader for the Hematology group within the J&J Pharmaceutical R&D organization, where he primarily focused on R&D issues surrounding Procrit and Eprex. Dr. Klausner received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA, did a medical internship at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in NY, NY and then completed his internal medicine residency and nephrology fellowship at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, MA.

“I am very happy and excited to join NephroGenex” said Dr. Klausner. “Our lead drug candidate, Pyridorin, is being developed to slow the progression of diabetic kidney disease. The results of the clinical studies prior to my joining the company were highly suggestive of strong safety and efficacy and I look forward to our upcoming Phase IIb clinical trial. If Pyridorin’s safety and efficacy are confirmed, it can have significant public health implications, as diabetic kidney disease is such an important cause of morbidity and mortality”.

Dr. J. Wesley Fox, President and CEO of NephroGenex commented: “We are delighted to have been able to recruit a person with Dr. Klausner’s background and experience in nephrology, which will help us steer Pyridorin through the next stage of clinical development which is planned for the third quarter of 2008.”

## **About NephroGenex, Inc.**

NephroGenex is a drug development company with a focus on kidney disease. More than 20 million Americans have some form of chronic kidney disease, and over 400,000 in the US have end stage renal disease requiring dialysis, making renal disease one of the costliest illnesses to treat. The Company is developing Pyridorin™ (pyridoxamine dihydrochloride) as a treatment to slow the progression of diabetic kidney disease. Pyridorin™ has demonstrated a significant treatment effect in slowing the progression of diabetic nephropathy in two Phase II clinical trials, and has been awarded Fast Track status by the FDA. Pyridorin is currently a leading drug candidate in advanced clinical trials for diabetic kidney disease. NephroGenex has initiated a new Phase IIb clinical trial (PYR-210) that is evaluating the safety and efficacy of Pyridorin in slowing the progression of overt nephropathy in patients with type 2 diabetes. NephroGenex will seek a partner for Phase III development and commercialization.