



**Amarantus**  
BioSciences

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## **Amarantus BioSciences Appoints Mark J. Benedyk, PhD as Strategic Advisor**

**SUNNYVALE, CA – December 13, 2011** – Amarantus BioSciences, Inc. (OTCBB: AMBS), a biotechnology company developing MANF, a first-in-class disease-modifying therapeutic protein, today announced Mark J. Benedyk, PhD will join the Company as a strategic advisor effective immediately. Dr. Benedyk is a seasoned life sciences executive with an extensive background in pharmaceutical licensing, operations and corporate development. In this role, he will support Amarantus on strategy and business development issues.

“I am excited to join the Amarantus team after having watched the company enhance its management team and expand its patent portfolio as it moves forward into the CNS arena,” said Dr. Benedyk. “I believe there are significant potential opportunities for the use of MANF and complementary technologies to expand the Amarantus pipeline in the future.”

Dr. Benedyk, is currently a Managing Partner at Rila Partners LLC, a business and corporate development consultancy he founded earlier in his career. Among other things, in this role, he is a Strategic Advisory Board member to a clinical-stage neuropsychiatry specialty care company, is a Director at the Center for Drug Research and Development Ventures, Inc., and is on the Translational Medicine Advisory Board of the CNS Regenerative Medicine Foundation. Previously he was head of The Pfizer Incubator (TPI) where his duties included membership on the Board of Directors, a director seat on several TPI portfolio company boards, overseeing the TPI operations team, and reviewing investment opportunities in multiple technologies. Dr. Benedyk also held executive Business Development roles at Ascenta Therapeutics, Optimer Biotechnology, Aurora Biosciences (acquired by Vertex Pharmaceuticals), and Elan Pharmaceuticals. He received his Ph.D. in Developmental Genetics, from The Rockefeller University, his B.S. degrees in Microbiology and Botany from the University of Michigan, B.S., and received financial certifications from Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business, and the University of Virginia Darden School of Business.

“Mark’s experience and success as a business development executive will add valuable insight to our team at Amarantus as we look to expand our development of MANF for Parkinson’s Disease and evaluate additional opportunities to grow the company,” added Gerald Commissiong, President and CEO of Amarantus.



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### **About MANF (Mesencephalic-Astrocyte-derived Neurotrophic Factor)**

MANF (Mesencephalic-Astrocyte-derived Neurotrophic Factor) is a protein that corrects protein misfolding, one of the major causes of apoptosis (cell death). This property provides a compelling rationale for the research and development of MANF-based products as therapeutics for human disease. The lead MANF product development effort is centered on a therapy for Parkinson's disease, currently funded by a research grant from the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. The Company also owns an inventory of 88 cell lines referred to as "PhenoGuard Cell Lines." MANF was the first therapeutic protein discovered from a PhenoGuard Cell Line. It is anticipated that additional therapeutic proteins useful for various therapeutic approaches to the Central Nervous System (CNS) will be identified from the Company's inventory of PhenoGuard Cell Lines.

### **About Amarantus BioSciences, Inc.**

Amarantus BioSciences, Inc. is a California-based development-stage biotechnology company founded in January 2008. The Company has a focus on developing certain biologics surrounding the intellectual property and proprietary technologies it owns to treat Parkinson's disease and other human diseases. The Company owns the intellectual property rights to a therapeutic protein known as Mesencephalic-Astrocyte-derived Neurotrophic Factor ("MANF"). For further information please visit [www.amarantus.com](http://www.amarantus.com).

### **Forward Looking Statements**

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements include, but are not limited to, statements about the possible benefits of MANF therapeutic applications and/or advantages presented by Amarantus' PhenoGuard technology, as well as statements about expectations, plans and prospects of the development of Amarantus' new product candidates. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including the risks that the anticipated benefits of the therapeutic drug candidates or discovery platforms, as well as the risks, uncertainties and assumptions relating to the development of Amarantus' new product candidates, including those identified under "Risk Factors" in Amarantus' most recently filed Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and in other filings Amarantus periodically makes with the SEC. Actual results may differ materially from those contemplated by these forward-looking statements. Amarantus does not undertake to update any of these forward-looking statements to reflect a change in its views or events or circumstances that occur after the date of this presentation.