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FOR RELEASE
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**COMBIMATRIX TO PRESENT
AT THE 6TH ANNUAL BIO CEO & INVESTOR CONFERENCE**

Newport Beach, Calif. – (BUSINESS WIRE) – February 17, 2004 – Acacia Research Corporation (Nasdaq: CBMX:ACTG) announced today that Dr. Amit Kumar, President and CEO of CombiMatrix, will present an overview of the Company at the 6th Annual BIO CEO & Investor Conference at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City.

A live transmission of the presentation will take place at 11:00 am ET on Wednesday, February 25, 2004. To access the live webcast please go to www.combimatrix.com/news_events.htm.

Now in its sixth year, the BIO CEO & Investor Conference has emerged as the industry's own investor conference. Hosted by the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), the meeting brings together key industry players in a neutral and collaborative forum to examine investment opportunities and issues affecting the biotechnology industry. Participants include senior biotechnology executives, institutional and venture capital investors, industry analysts, corporate finance executives and experts from the scientific and medical communities.

ABOUT ACACIA RESEARCH CORPORATION

Acacia Research Corporation comprises two operating groups, Acacia Technologies Group and CombiMatrix Group.

The CombiMatrix group is developing a platform technology to rapidly produce customizable active biochips, which are semiconductor-based tools for use in identifying and determining the roles of genes, gene mutations and proteins. CombiMatrix's technology has a wide range of applications including DNA synthesis/diagnostics, siRNA synthesis, drug discovery, and immunochemical detection. CombiMatrix provides DNA arrays to researchers under the CustomArrayTM brand.

CombiMatrix's Express Tracksm drug discovery program is a systems biology approach, using its technology, to target common viral diseases with siRNA compounds. The initial focus of Express Tracksm includes the following viral diseases:

Virus

Collaborator

SARS	NIAID/USAMRIID
HIV type 1	irsiCaixa-Dr. Bonaventura Clotet
HIV type 2	To Be Announced
West Nile virus	To Be Announced
Human Papillomavirus type 16	To Be Announced
Human Herpes 8 (Kaposi's sarcoma)	To Be Announced
Smallpox (Variola)	To Be Announced
Influenza virus A	To Be Announced
Influenza virus B	To Be Announced
Hepatitis C	To Be Announced

CombiMatrix is also establishing applications of its arrays through other partnerships as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Collaborator</u>
Cancer Diagnosis (Lymphoma)	University of Washington/Rational Diagnostics
RNA Drug Targets	Professor Gregory L. Verdine, Harvard University
<u>Parasite</u>	
Leishmania	Seattle Biomedical Research Institute
Trypanosoma	Seattle Biomedical Research Institute

The Acacia Technologies group licenses its Digital Media Transmission (DMT) technology to media and electronics companies. The DMT technology covers the transmission and receipt of digital audio and digital video content, commonly known as audio on-demand, video on-demand, and audio/video streaming, and is supported by 5 U.S. and 31 foreign patents.

Acacia Research-Acacia Technologies (Nasdaq: ACTG) and Acacia Research-CombiMatrix (Nasdaq:CBMX) are both classes of common stock issued by Acacia Research Corporation and are intended to reflect the performance of the respective operating groups and are not issued by the operating groups.

Information about Acacia Research Corporation and the Acacia Technologies group is available at www.acaciaresearch.com. Information about the CombiMatrix group is available at www.combimatrix.com.

Safe Harbor Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995:

This news release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based upon our current expectations and speak only as of the date hereof. Our actual results may differ materially and adversely from those expressed in any forward-looking statements as a result of various factors and uncertainties, including the recent economic slowdown affecting technology companies, our ability to successfully develop products, rapid technological change in our markets, changes in demand for our future products, legislative, regulatory and competitive developments and general economic conditions. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, recent and forthcoming Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, recent Current Reports on Forms 8-K and 8-K/A, and other SEC filings discuss some of the important risk factors that may affect our business, results of operations and financial condition. We undertake no obligation to revise or update publicly any forward-looking statements for any reason.