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For Immediate Release

Copernicus Announces Efficient DNA Drug Delivery for Brain & Eye Diseases

Cleveland, OH June 7, 2005 – Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc. announced today that collaborators Dr. David Yurek at the University of Kentucky and Dr. Muna Naash at the University of Oklahoma presented results at the American Society of Gene Therapy Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Using the company's efficient and effective non-viral nucleic acid nanoparticle technology, Dr. Yurek showed that DNA nanoparticles were very effective and non-toxic in introducing DNA into brain cells. Dr. Naash showed that DNA nanoparticles were more than ten-fold more efficient than any competing gene transfer system in effectively introducing DNA into the cells of the retina.

"We are most enthusiastic about these findings," said Dr. Mark J. Cooper, Sr. Vice President of Science and Medical Affairs at Copernicus. "Gene transfer in the brain of animals was highly efficient and non-toxic, suggesting multiple treatment options for serious neurological disorders such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. In the eye, a remarkable 99% gene transfer efficiency in the retina was observed. Treatment of important causes of blindness, including retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and various viral infections may be possible using our nanoparticle technology."

"These findings further demonstrate the platform nature of our nucleic acid delivery technology which enables us to develop therapeutics for different parts of the body and for multiple diseases," said Dr. Robert C. Moen, President and CEO of Copernicus. "Our lead program, which already has had a successful clinical trial, involves developing a therapy for a serious disease affecting the lung, cystic fibrosis."

Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc., a privately held biotechnology company, is advancing novel nucleic acid delivery systems with broad applications in human therapeutics. Additional information about Copernicus is available at <http://www.cgsys.com>

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