



# C O P E R N I C U S T H E R A P E U T I C S , I N C .

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Copernicus Announces Breakthrough in Non-Viral Gene Transfer to the Lung**

**Cleveland, OH June 11, 2002** – Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc. presented data at the American Society of Gene Therapy meeting showing that their compacted DNA formulation can effectively transfect murine lung, establishing a robust DNA drug delivery platform for pulmonary and systemic diseases.

Mark J. Cooper, M.D., Senior Vice President of Science and Medical Affairs said, “Our compacted DNA nanoparticles have been optimized to effectively deliver genes to pulmonary epithelial cells. Our pharmaceutical preparation of compacted DNA is extremely stable in serum and other biological fluids, and has an extended shelf-life at either 4°C or room temperature. The small size of our DNA particles facilitates transfer of the DNA payload into the nucleus of pulmonary epithelial cells. This formulation also is non-toxic in formal GLP toxicity studies, and chronic administration may be possible since there are minimal inflammatory and immunologic responses to the complexes. These results provide the background and rationale for using these complexes in an ongoing human clinical trial in subjects with cystic fibrosis.”

“Copernicus has established platform gene transfer and expression technologies that are effective and safe,” said Robert C. Moen, M.D., Ph.D., President and CEO of Copernicus. “Compaction of single molecules of DNA produces a gene transfer system that is stable in serum, permits targeting and uptake by specific cell types, traffics effectively in the cell, and crosses the intact nuclear membrane. The modular design of our technology gives us the flexibility to co-develop gene therapies for a variety of clinical indications, including cystic fibrosis and hemophilia.”

Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc. is advancing novel targeting and delivery systems with broad applications in human therapeutics and vaccines. Copernicus’ technologies include a multi-component delivery platform that can be applied to nucleic acids to develop therapies for a variety of human diseases and a targeting platform enabling the efficient uptake of drugs by specific cells and tissues. The Company’s targeting and delivery platforms are complementary and can be combined to enhance the efficacy and safety of existing drugs or to create novel therapeutics.

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