



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

Use of Ubiquitin Promoter in Copernicus' Compacted DNA Nanoparticles Provides Prolonged, High Level Gene Expression after Intrapulmonary Administration

Cleveland, OH, June 11, 2003 – Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc. presented data at the 6th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Gene Therapy showing that incorporation of a ubiquitin promoter in the compacted DNA construct can generate sustained gene expression, superior to that of analogous compositions containing the CMV promoter. As determined by monitoring expression of a reporter gene in the lungs of animals, ubiquitin-controlled compacted DNA was expressed for many weeks longer than CMV-controlled compacted DNA. Prolonged DNA drug expression is preferred in order to maximize the efficiency of therapeutics for chronic lung disorders such as Cystic Fibrosis (CF). This work represents a collaborative effort between researchers at Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc., Drs. Deborah Gill and Stephen Hyde at University of Oxford, and Drs. Pamela B. Davis and Assem Ziady at Case Western Reserve University.

”The ubiquitin promoter directs high level and sustained gene expression in lung airway epithelial cells, a key characteristic for developing effective lung therapeutics, such as DNA drugs for CF patients,” said Mark J. Cooper, M.D., Senior VP of Science and Medical Affairs at Copernicus. “Since animal and human studies have demonstrated encouraging results regarding the safety and efficacy of our DNA nanoparticles, we are optimistic that chronic administration using improved promoters may provide a useful CF therapeutic. Additional laboratory work and extensive clinical studies will be required to determine the ultimate usefulness of DNA nanoparticles in treating CF.”

“Having promoters with prolonged expression profiles further enhances our already strong compacted DNA drug development programs,” said Robert C. Moen, M.D., Ph.D., President and CEO of Copernicus. “Our non-viral gene transfer system appears to be safe and effective in both animal and human studies, and our recent observations using the ubiquitin promoter show great promise in further optimizing our therapeutic programs. We are optimistic that our compacted DNA nanoparticle platform may form the basis for effective DNA drugs for cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, and many other diseases. Copernicus will be seeking additional funding and/or partnerships to help us further explore clinical applications of our exciting technologies.”

Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc., a privately held biotechnology company, is advancing novel targeting and delivery systems with broad applications in human therapeutics, DNA vaccines, and functional genomics. Copernicus' technologies include a targeting platform enabling the efficient uptake of drugs by specific cells and tissues, and a multi-component delivery platform that can be applied to nucleic acids to develop therapies for a variety of human diseases. The Company's targeting, delivery, and expression platforms are complementary and can be combined to

enhance the efficacy and safety of existing drugs, to create novel therapeutics, and to speed up the drug discovery process. Additional information about Copernicus is available at <http://www.cgsys.com>

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