



# 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 Demonstrates Ability of Its Non-Viral Delivery System to Efficiently Transfer Large Sizes of Nucleic Acid into Lung Cells**

**Cleveland, Ohio, July 6, 2006** – Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc. announced that its non-viral based DNA nanoparticles technology can efficiently deliver even very large sizes of nucleic acid, up to at least 20,000 base pairs in size, to the lung cells of mice. Thus, Copernicus has again demonstrated the robust nature of its proprietary non-viral delivery system by successfully surmounting a significant limiting factor of competitive delivery technologies. These data were published in the July issue of the journal *Gene Therapy*.

“Copernicus has developed compacted DNA nanoparticles that are highly active in numerous tissues, including the airway cells of animals and humans,” said Mark J. Cooper, M.D., Senior VP of Science and Medical Affairs at Copernicus. “Many investigators in the field of nucleic acid therapeutics are using viral-based systems that have specific limitations in the size of the DNA payload which can be delivered. This size restriction can preclude development of DNA therapeutics for serious diseases, since the length of DNA required to code for and regulate the expression of the drug product can exceed viral packaging limitations. The data presented in this publication show that even very large DNA molecules can be delivered with the same efficiency of much smaller payloads.”

“We are very pleased with the progress of our drug development programs, and as these latest data demonstrate, we are very enthusiastic about the range of therapeutic opportunities our novel technology can address,” said Robert C. Moen, M.D., Ph.D., President and CEO of Copernicus. “Previously, we have shown our non-viral-based nucleic acid delivery system is safe and effective in both animal and human studies, with no evidence for immune recognition of our nanoparticles or induction of a significant inflammatory response. This publication further demonstrates the strength of our technology in allowing Copernicus to design nucleic acid therapeutics without concern over payload size limitations. We are finding that this flexibility is invaluable in developing unique therapies to treat or prevent many devastating diseases.”

*Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc., a privately held biotechnology company, is advancing its novel non-viral delivery systems with broad applications in human therapeutics using DNA, siRNA or other nucleic acid-based molecules to treat or prevent a variety of human diseases. Its lead program, already in clinical trials, is developing a therapeutic to treat the root cause of cystic fibrosis. Additional information about Copernicus is available at <http://www.cgsys.com>*

