



C O P E R N I C U S
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For Immediate Release

Copernicus Receives Issued U.S. Patent for Methods to Formulate Highly Efficient Non-viral Gene Therapy Vectors

Cleveland, Ohio, January 17, 2003 – Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc. announced that the United States Patent Office has issued US patent 6,506,890 entitled "Method of Nucleic Acid Compaction".

Mark J. Cooper, M.D., Senior Vice President of Science and Medical Affairs said, "This highly reproducible method of formulating non-viral expression vectors results in stable compacted DNA nanoparticles that can be concentrated and stored for long periods of time. These non-viral DNA nanoparticles are able to transfect even non-dividing cells at high efficiency. Our recently completed Phase I/II clinical trial involving subjects with cystic fibrosis utilized DNA nanoparticles that were manufactured at Copernicus using this formulation method."

"Copernicus has established a very broad and enabling position in the field of gene therapy," said Robert C. Moen, M.D., Ph.D., President and CEO of Copernicus. "Our intellectual property positions us uniquely in this field. Given the dangers inherent with viral vectors, our technology permits robust gene transfer into cells in animals or humans without induction of inflammation or immunologic toxicities. This patent covers a well-controlled and efficient method of formulating compacted DNA that can be readily scaled-up for manufacturing large quantities of DNA nanoparticles. This formulation of DNA nanoparticles is commercially relevant and central to our development of novel therapeutics. We expect to broadly partner this effective gene transfer platform with other pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies."

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. The Company's initial therapeutic product is being developed for the cystic fibrosis market and the Company recently completed a Phase I/II clinical trial for this indication.

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