



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

Copernicus Receives Issued U.S. Patent For In Vivo Use of High Efficiency Gene Therapy Vector in Humans

Cleveland, Ohio, January 17, 2002 – Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc. announced that the United States Patent Office has issued Episomal Vector for Human Gene Therapy, US Patent Number 6,339,065.

Mark J. Cooper, M.D., Senior Vice President of Science and Medical Affairs said, “This non-viral expression vector was designed to express therapeutic genes at very high levels in cancer patients. Since inadequate levels of gene expression likely limit the success of cancer gene therapy clinical trials, this vector may significantly improve the modest results generally observed. This episomal plasmid safely replicates in the nucleus of cancer cells, thereby enhancing expression levels of potential therapeutic agents due to gene amplification. The episomal expression vector can be used in conjunction with liposome preparations or formulated as condensed DNA particles using Copernicus’ gene transfer technologies. This patent provides very broad coverage for use of this high efficiency expression vector in patients with cancer.”

“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 enables us to access the favorable aspects of viral vectors while providing the safety and pharmaceutical qualities inherent in non-viral gene delivery systems. This patent covers use of our episomal expression vector in humans, and fits nicely with our core gene transfer and targeting technologies. We expect to broadly partner this effective gene transfer platform with other pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies developing cancer therapeutics, or who wish to use this expression vector for gene discovery and genomics applications.”

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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