



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

State of Ohio Awards Copernicus \$1.08 Million Technology Action Fund Grant

Cleveland, OH June 20, 2002 – Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc. has received a grant from the State of Ohio to fund optimization of aerosols of its non-viral compacted DNA nanoparticles for intrapulmonary delivery.

Mark J. Cooper, M.D., Senior Vice President of Science and Medical Affairs said, “We are very pleased to be recognized by the State of Ohio for our recent advances in formulating safe and effective DNA drugs for intrapulmonary delivery. Based on data in animals demonstrating that our DNA formulation was both safe and effective, we have recently initiated our first human clinical trial in subjects with cystic fibrosis. This Technology Action Fund (TAF) grant will help us develop cost-effective aerosols of compacted DNA to treat the airways of CF patients. These studies may also optimize delivery of DNA drugs to the distal airways, which may be an effective way to express recombinant proteins in the systemic circulation. The funds from the TAF program should significantly advance commercial development of our CF and hemophilia programs.”

“I congratulate Copernicus Therapeutics on its Technology Action Fund award and its commitment to advancing therapeutic and DNA drug technology,” State Development Director Bruce Johnson said. “As an important component of Governor Taft’s Third Frontier Project, TAF grants encourage the efforts of companies like Copernicus Therapeutics to accelerate the commercialization of new technologies, attract investment capital, and create jobs for Ohioans.”

“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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