



# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Dicerna Pharmaceuticals to Present at Upcoming Conferences

*James C. Jenson, Ph.D., to speak at Thomas Weisel Partners 2009 Healthcare Conference and 2009 Boston Biotech Research and Development Conference*

**WATERTOWN, Mass., September 2, 2009** – Dicerna Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a second generation RNA interference (RNAi) company developing novel therapeutics utilizing its proprietary Dicer Substrate Technology™ and dicer substrate RNAi molecules, today announced that James C. Jenson, Ph.D., chief executive officer and co-founder of Dicerna, will be presenting an overview of the Company's recent progress and upcoming milestones at the following fall investor conferences:

- Thomas Weisel Partners' Annual Healthcare Conference, being held September 9-11, 2009 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston. Dr. Jenson's presentation is scheduled for 2:40 p.m. EST on September 9; and
- The Third Annual Boston Biotech Research and Development Conference, being held October 27, 2009 at the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Jenson's presentation is scheduled for 1:00-1:20 p.m. EST.

### About RNAi

First described in plants and then in worms, flies and higher organisms, RNA interference (RNAi) is a key cellular mechanism regulating gene expression in both normal and disease processes. Dicer is a critical enzyme involved in the gene-silencing cascade. Dicer processing of double-stranded RNA oligonucleotides of 25 or more base pairs and hand-off to the gene-silencing complex (RISC) results in a five-to-10-fold more potent activity and longer duration of action.

### About Dicerna

Dicerna Pharmaceuticals is a private, venture-backed RNAi-focused biopharmaceutical company developing novel therapeutic agents in multiple disease areas based on its proprietary Dicer Substrate Technology platform. Dicerna is developing second generation RNAi-based therapies, and related drug delivery systems, that use the engagement of the enzyme Dicer, which is an earlier step in the gene silencing process and a natural initiation point for the RNAi cascade. This

distinct biological pathway demonstrates greater potency and a longer duration of action, differentiating it from other RNAi approaches, and resulting in the knockdown of expression of a targeted gene in a way that is highly selective and specific. In collaboration with Archemix Corp., Dicerna is developing DsiRNA-aptamer conjugates to leverage both the potent gene silencing of Dicerna's DsiRNA molecules and the targeted delivery capabilities of Archemix's aptamers. Dicerna believes that its Dicer Substrate Technology is based on intellectual property that is both broadly enabling and distinct from other IP in the field. Dicerna has exclusive, worldwide rights to the Dicer Substrate Technology and has the sole right to grant sublicenses to the full portfolio of Dicer Substrate intellectual property. Dicerna is based in Watertown, Massachusetts. For more information, please visit [www.dicerna.com](http://www.dicerna.com).

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