



# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Dicerna Pharmaceuticals to Present at Upcoming Conferences

*Dicer Substrate Technology™ Subject of Presentations at RNAi World Congress 2009 and TIDES® 2009 Conference*

**WATERTOWN, Mass., May 13, 2009** – Dicerna Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a second generation RNA interference company developing novel therapeutics utilizing its proprietary Dicer Substrate Technology™, today announced presentations at two upcoming conferences: the RNAi World Congress 2009, May 14-15, in Boston; and TIDES® 2009, the Oligonucleotide and Peptide Technology and Product Development Conference, May 17-20, in Las Vegas.

#### Dicerna at RNAi World Congress 2009:

In a podium presentation titled, “Potent *In Vivo* Activity of Dicer Substrate siRNAs (DsiRNA) Targeting KRAS,” Bob D. Brown, Ph.D., Dicerna’s senior vice president of research, will highlight preclinical findings demonstrating highly selective, specific and potent inhibition using novel DsiRNAs against KRAS, a gene that plays a central role in the growth, differentiation, and survival of cells. KRAS gene mutations are associated with multiple cancers, including leukemias, and lung, colorectal and pancreatic tumors. Dr. Brown will highlight the potent *in vivo* activity and pharmaceutical properties of DsiRNAs that lead to their enhanced drug delivery potential. This presentation is scheduled for 2:15 p.m. (EDT) on Thursday, May 14, 2009.

Also, in a podium presentation titled “Developing Dicer-Substrate siRNA Drugs,” Mark Behlke, M.D., Ph.D, chief scientific officer at Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT) and Dicerna scientific co-founder, will discuss IDT’s collaborative work with Dicerna to systematically screen over 400 DsiRNAs to identify ultra-potent sites in the human and mouse KRAS genes. Dr. Behlke is a Dicerna co-founder and scientific advisory board member. This presentation is scheduled for 1:45 p.m. (EDT) on Thursday, May 14, 2009.

#### Dicerna at TIDES 2009:

Dr. Brown will be presenting at the TIDES Main Conference on the subject of “DsiRNA versus siRNA Entry and Triggering of RNAi,” demonstrating that inhibition of gene expression by

DsiRNA is of more potent and longer duration than inhibition induced by typical 21mer siRNA. Dr. Brown will also provide a systematic comparison of the molecular and mechanistic differences of the RNA and protein components of RISC loaded by cognate DsiRNA, siRNA, and other RNAi trigger configurations, including *in vitro* and *in vivo* data. This presentation is scheduled for 2 p.m. (PDT) on Wednesday, May 20 as part of the Oligonucleotides session.

As part of this session, Dr. Brown will also present chairperson's remarks on the subject of "Development Strategies of Leading Oligos in Clinical Development" at 3 p.m.

### **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 novel 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 results in the knockdown of expression of a targeted gene in a way that is highly selective and specific. The company 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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