

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Dicerna Pharmaceuticals, an RNA Interference Company, to Present at Discovery on Target Conference**

*Dicerna Will Lead Sessions at RNAi for Therapeutics Conference  
and RNAi for Screening Conference*

**WATERTOWN, Mass., October 22, 2008** – Dicerna Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ([www.dicerna.com](http://www.dicerna.com)), an RNA interference company developing novel therapeutics in multiple disease areas, today announced that Bob D. Brown, Ph.D., senior vice president of research, Dicerna, and Dicerna co-founder and Scientific Advisory Board member Mark Behlke, M.D., Ph.D., vice president of molecular genetics and biophysics and chief scientific officer at Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT), will present at the Discovery on Target Conference at the World Trade Center in Boston, Mass. The conference will be held October 20-23, 2008, and is broken up into several sub-conferences. Dicerna will lead sessions at two of these sub-conferences, including the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual RNAi for Screening Conference, as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual RNAi for Therapeutics Conference.

During the RNAi for Screening Conference on October 22, Dr. Brown will lead a breakout session titled *Making RNAi Therapies a Reality* at 7:30 a.m. (ET), followed by an executive forum titled *RNAi: How to Best Transition from the Lab to the Clinic* at 11:10 a.m. (ET).

On October 22, at the RNAi for Therapeutics Conference, Dr. Brown will lead a session titled *Dicer-substrate Oligonucleotides (DsiRNAs) as Therapeutic Leads* at 4:50 p.m. (ET). During his presentation, Dr. Brown will share information about the innovative bioinformatics and high-throughput screening technology used by Dicerna to identify the most effective Dicer Substrate RNAs (DsiRNAs) against therapeutic target genes. On October 23, Dr. Behlke, will chair the afternoon session titled *Addressing Safety and Manufacturing Concerns* beginning at 1:55 p.m. (ET). Dr. Behlke will also present *Manufacturing RNA Duplexes for Research and Pre-Clinical Studies* during this session at 4:10 p.m. (ET), in which he will discuss IDT's approaches to

manufacturing quality synthetic RNA oligonucleotides for RNAi research utilizing Dicerna's Dicer Substrate Technology.

"We are excited that Dicerna is playing an integral role in both the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual RNAi for Therapeutics Conference and the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual RNAi for Screening Conference," commented Dr. Brown. "Dicerna is emerging as a leader in the RNAi community due to our unique second-generation approach using DsiRNA to reduce target gene expression. These DsiRNAs are processed by the enzyme Dicer, which is an ideal point for synthetic RNA to enter the RNAi cascade. It has been observed that DsiRNAs have increased potency and duration of action compared to first generation siRNAs. We look forward to discussing our novel Dicer Substrate Technology and continued research of DsiRNAs as drug candidates at the Discovery on Target Conference."

"We look forward to participating in this year's Discovery on Target conference," said Dr. Behlke. "The conference will be an excellent forum to share with our peers in the drug discovery community Dicerna's pioneering scientific approaches in the development of novel, potent and selective RNAi-based drugs."

#### **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 an earlier step in the gene silencing process, namely the engagement of the enzyme Dicer, which is a natural initiation point for the RNAi cascade. This approach results in the knockdown of expression of a targeted gene in a way that is highly selective and specific, and demonstrates greater potency and longer duration of action than other RNAi approaches. The Dicer Substrate Technology is based on intellectual property that is both broadly enabling and distinct from other IP in the field. Dicerna is based in Watertown, Massachusetts. For more information, please visit [www.dicerna.com](http://www.dicerna.com).

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