



News Release

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Dicerna Pharmaceuticals Named One of the “Fierce 15” Leading Biotech Companies of 2010

WATERTOWN, Mass., September 15, 2010 – [Dicerna Pharmaceuticals, Inc.](http://www.dicerna.com) (Dicerna), a second generation RNA interference (RNAi) company developing novel therapeutics utilizing its proprietary Dicer Substrate Technology™ and Dicer Substrate siRNA (DsiRNA) molecules, today announced that FierceBiotech has named Dicerna as one of 2010’s “Fierce 15,” designating it as one of the most promising biotech companies in the industry.

“Dicerna believes it has a better way to create gene-silencing molecules, making them a bit longer than the pioneers at Alnylam and Sirna/Merck in a bid to create the new-new thing in the RNAi space,” said John Carroll, editor of FierceBiotech. “They’ve made some key believers among industry players who see the potential for redefining excellence in RNAi. Doug Fambrough, Ph.D., took the helm in May, jumping in at a critical juncture. Within just a few months he nailed a \$25 million Series B, adding Domain Associates to the mix of venture backers and bringing its total venture haul to \$46.4 million.”

Every year FierceBiotech evaluates hundreds of private companies for its annual list, which is based on a variety of factors such as the strength of its technology, partnerships and a competitive market position. A complete list of “Fierce 15” companies is available online at www.fiercebiotech.com.

“2010 has been a pivotal year for Dicerna, with the recent completion of our \$25 million Series B funding and closing two major alliances earlier this year with Kyowa Hakko Kirin and Ipsen,” said Douglas M. Fambrough, Ph.D., chief executive officer of Dicerna. “Dicerna’s inclusion in this year’s ‘Fierce 15’ is a testament to the strength of the company and the promise of our novel, second generation approach to developing RNAi-based therapies using our Dicer Substrate Technology platform.”

About Dicer Substrate RNAi

Dicer is a critical enzyme involved in the RNAi gene silencing cascade and acts as the natural initiation point for this pathway by processing double-stranded RNA so that it can be used for gene silencing. Dicer then delivers these modified small RNA molecules to the mature gene silencing complex. Dicerna’s synthetic Dicer Substrate siRNA (DsiRNA) molecules are 25 or more base pairs in length and are processed by Dicer. By utilizing this distinct early entry point into the

pathway, DsiRNA molecules have greater potency and longer duration of action than other RNAi approaches. In addition, DsiRNA molecules have enhanced delivery potential because their structure creates a natural conjugation point for cellular targeting agents.

About Dicerna

Dicerna Pharmaceuticals is a private, venture-backed RNAi-focused biopharmaceutical company developing novel therapeutic agents and related drug delivery systems in multiple disease areas based on its proprietary Dicer Substrate Technology™ platform and Dicer Substrate siRNA (DsiRNA) molecules. Dicer Substrate Technology is a second generation RNAi approach that results in greater potency, longer duration of action and enhanced delivery potential, differentiating it from other RNAi approaches. 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 company's portfolio of Dicer Substrate Technology intellectual property. Dicerna has a major alliance with Kyowa Hakko Kirin for DsiRNA pharmaceuticals and drug delivery systems, initially focused on oncology. The company also has a partnership with Ipsen to research and develop novel DsiRNA therapeutics with targeted delivery in oncology and endocrinology. Dicerna is based in Watertown, Massachusetts. For more information, please visit www.dicerna.com.

About FierceBiotech

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