



# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Dicerna Pharmaceuticals, a RNA Interference Company, to Present at 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Beyond Genome Conference**

*- Presentation Showcases Novel and Potentially More Potent Approach to  
RNAi Drug Development -*

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., June 9, 2008 – Dicerna Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ([www.dicerna.com](http://www.dicerna.com)), a RNA interference company developing novel therapeutics in multiple disease areas, today announced that Roberto Guerciolini, M.D., senior vice president of pharmaceutical development and co-founder of Dicerna, will present in the RNA Technology Spotlight portion of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Beyond Genome Tools to Therapies conference being held June 8-11, 2008 at The Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, CA.

Dr. Guerciolini's presentation will take place on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:35 p.m. (PT) and will focus on RNA duplexes of 27-oligonucleotide length as substrates for Dicer and their enhanced capability of triggering RNA interference (RNAi).

First described in plants and then in worms, flies and higher organisms, RNAi works differently in mammals because of the activity of Dicer, a key enzyme involved in the processing of double-stranded RNA into siRNA. In humans, Dicer optimally processes double-stranded RNA oligonucleotides of 25 to 30 base pairs, resulting in a five-to-one hundred-fold more potent activity and longer duration of action.

“Dicerna's platform opens a second doorway into the RNAi space,” stated Dr. Guerciolini. “Our Dicer Substrate Technology represents a second generation of gene silencing that can be optimized to create drug candidates that are both highly potent and specific, and distinct from current approaches to RNAi in terms of biological pathway and intellectual property. We look forward to discussing our approach further at the Beyond Genome Conference.”

Dicerna is developing novel RNAi-based therapies 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, specific and more potent 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.

**About Dicerna**

Dicerna Pharmaceuticals is a private, venture-backed biopharmaceutical company developing novel therapeutic agents in multiple disease areas based on its proprietary Dicer Substrate Technology platform. In November, 2007, Dicerna closed a \$13 million Series A financing led by Oxford Bioscience Partners and Skyline Ventures.

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