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Dicerna Pharmaceuticals to Present at First Annual Boston Biotech R&D Conference

WATERTOWN, Mass., October 16, 2008 – Dicerna Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

(www.dicerna.com), a second generation RNA interference company developing novel therapeutics utilizing proprietary Dicer Substrate Technology™, today announced that James Jenson, Ph.D., chief executive officer, will present at the 2008 Boston Biotech R&D Conference. The presentation will be held at 3:00 p.m. EST on October 22, 2008 at Harvard Medical School. This conference will bring luminaries from top academic institutions that have been instrumental in establishing the strong Boston biotech community together with executives from several of the area's most promising emerging biopharmaceutical companies and leaders from the venture capital community and equity markets.

In his session, Dr. Jenson will discuss Dicerna's Dicer Substrate Technology platform and explain how Dicerna's novel approach opens up the entire transcriptome and represents a novel, second-generation of RNAi silencing that holds significant promise for drug development. Dicerna's research is focused in the therapeutic areas of oncology, metabolic diseases and hepatitis C infection (HCV). In addition, Dr. Jenson will highlight Dicerna's plans to broadly utilize its Dicer Substrate Technology in several other therapeutic areas, such as inflammation, immunology, cardiology, and others, through collaborations with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

"We are very pleased to be participating in the first-ever Boston Biotech R&D conference," said Jenson. "The conference will be a great forum to share Dicerna's engaging new scientific approaches in the development of novel, potent and selective drugs for unmet medical needs with biotech and pharmaceutical peers in our community. We look forward to highlighting our company's research, which shows that Dicer optimally processes double-stranded RNA oligonucleotides of 25 to 30 base pairs, resulting 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 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.

About The Boston Biotech R&D Conference

The 2008 Boston Biotech R&D Conference will highlight up-and-coming biotech companies in the Boston area. The agenda features several luminaries in medicine and research, including Frederick Alt, Ph.D.; Leonard Guarente, Ph.D., Robert Horvitz, Ph.D.; Ronald Kahn, M.D.; Robert Langer, Ph.D., Phillip Sharp, Ph.D., David Sinclair, Ph.D., and Christopher Walsh, Ph.D., as well as executives of the next generation of leading biotech and pharma companies from the Boston area. The conference is being organized by Christoph Westphal, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, and Michelle Dipp, M.D., Ph.D., Senior Director of Corporate Development, of Sirtris, a GSK company. The conference is sponsored by Alexandria Real Estate Equities Inc., Pure Communications Inc. and Rodman & Renshaw, LLC. For more information, visit www.bostonbiotechconference.com.

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