



Cornerstone Pharmaceuticals, Inc  
1 Duncan Drive  
Cranbury, NJ 08512

Media Contact: Meghan Weber  
Liza Sullivan & Associates  
(917) 399-8713

## **CORNERSTONE PHARMACEUTICALS ADDS ACCLAIMED CANCER RESEARCH PIONEER ROBERT A. WEINBERG, Ph.D. TO ITS SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD**

Cranbury, NJ, October 5, 2009 – Cornerstone Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a privately-held pharmaceutical company, announced today that groundbreaking cancer research scientist Robert A. Weinberg, Ph.D., a founding member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and a Professor of Biology at MIT, has joined the company’s Scientific Advisory Board.

Widely recognized for his discoveries of the first human oncogene (the ras oncogene that causes normal cells to form tumors), and the isolation of the first known tumor suppressor gene - the Rb gene, Dr. Weinberg has long been recognized as a pioneer in cancer research.

“We are delighted to welcome Dr. Weinberg to our Scientific Advisory Board” commented Dr. Robert Shorr, CEO, of Cornerstone Pharmaceuticals. “Dr. Weinberg’s accomplishments in cancer research are monumental and we believe his experience, guidance and vision will be of tremendous benefit to the Company.”

Cornerstone Pharmaceuticals is currently recruiting patients with solid tumors to advance multiple Phase I/II human clinical trials of CPI-613, its lead drug to emerge from the company’s Altered Energy Metabolism Directed (AEMD) technology platform. CPI-613 is the first drug in a new chemical class that, through a novel mechanism, targets metabolic changes that may be common to many cancer types. CPI-613 is being evaluated in a Phase I/II single agent trial for patients who have failed all other therapy as well as in a Phase I/II combination trial with gemcitabine in newly diagnosed or relapsed patients determined to be treated with gemcitabine. Pancreatic cancer, like many solid tumors, typically has a poor prognosis, spreads rapidly and often goes undetected in its early stages. CPI-613 has been granted orphan drug status by the US FDA for pancreatic cancer.

“I am pleased to join Cornerstone Pharmaceuticals as a member of its Scientific Advisory Board and look forward to helping the Company develop vitally important potentially life-sustaining compounds that challenge and hopefully enhance conventional wisdom about treatment for a variety of cancers,” said Dr. Weinberg. “Cornerstone is a leader in developing compounds that target the unique metabolic attributes of cancer cells. I believe, as do many others, that this is a promising area in cancer research, as



this unique metabolism is essential to cancer cell survival and preserved across multiple cancer types.”

Dr. Weinberg, who received his Ph.D. in biology from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1969, has also held research positions at the Weizmann Institute and the Salk Institute. He co-founded the Whitehead Institute and joined the MIT faculty as a professor of biology in 1982. That same year he published the landmark paper “Mechanism of Activation of a Human Oncogene” in the journal Nature. In 1999, he published “Creation of Human Tumor Cells with Defined Genetic Elements” also in Nature. Among his many distinctions, Dr. Weinberg was named “Scientist of the Year” by Discover magazine in 1982 and won the National Medal of Science in 1997 and the Otto Warburg Medal in 2007.

### **About Cornerstone Pharmaceuticals**

Cornerstone Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a privately held company that is committed to changing the way cancer is treated through the discovery and development of innovative therapies capitalizing on the unique metabolic processes of cancer cells. The company’s founding members, management and scientific advisory team include pre-eminent scientists focused on cancer cell metabolism, cancer research and drug development. Cornerstone is the only company that currently has a drug in clinical trials targeting certain key enzymes crucial to cancer cell metabolism. The company’s unique approach to targeting cancer metabolism has led to the discovery of first-in-class drugs with the potential to transform the way cancer is treated. Its lead drug, CPI-613, is currently being evaluated in three ongoing Phase I and Phase I/II clinical trials in a variety of tumor types. For further information, visit <http://www.cornerstonepharma.com>. Or contact: Meghan Weber at (917) 399-8713.

### **About Whitehead Institute**

Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research is a leading, nonprofit research and educational institution that has defined the cutting edge of biomedical science, creating a legacy of research excellence and academic eminence since 1982. Wholly independent in its governance, finances and research programs, Whitehead shares a teaching affiliation with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), offering the intellectual, collegial and scientific benefits of a leading research university.

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This release contains forward-looking statements. These statements relate to future events or each company’s future financial performance. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as “may”, “will”, “should”, “expect”, “plan”, “anticipate”, “believe”, “estimate”, “predict”, “potential” or “continue”, the negative of such terms, or other comparable terminology. These statements are only predictions. Actual events or results may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements as a result of various important factors. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, such statements should not be regarded as a representation by the company, or any other person, that such forwardlooking



statements will be achieved. The business and operations of the company are subject to substantial risks which increase the uncertainty inherent in forward-looking statements. We undertake no duty to update any of the forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. In light of the foregoing, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements.