

# Hemispherx Files New US Patent Application on Immune-Based Alternative Treatment to HIV/AIDS

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**Designed to protect 'sanctuary' regions of the body where virus hides and mutates into drug resistant strains.**

**Philadelphia, PA, Monday, December 16, 2002:** Hemispherx Biopharma Inc. (Amex: HEB) has filed a US patent application (US Provisional No. 60/339,390) to develop a new immune-based treatment for HIV/AIDS. All of the approximately 18 existing approved therapies are antiretrovirals, and thus far uniformly directed only at the AIDS virus itself.

The effects of these drugs are often transitory. Typically, the HIV/AIDS virus is suppressed, or retarded, in its growth for a period of time, generally months, by such antivirals. Meanwhile, the virus escapes into the body's so-called "sanctuary" regions - often within the immune system itself -- where it mutates to more virulent forms that resist antiviral drugs. Hemispherx's therapy is designed to arm and resuscitate the immune system, thus disallowing successful implantation of the virus in the sanctuaries and stopping the cascading process that leads to opportunistic infection and death.

The Company's RNA technology platform includes both large molecular weight (parenterally provided) and low mol. wt. (orally available) candidate drug molecules. The low molecular weight components are being studied in collaboration with governmental researches and academic centers worldwide. The parenteral (injectible) compounds will be presented at the HIV ("DART") conference in Naples, FL on December 17, 2002.

## About Hemispherx

Hemispherx Biopharma, based in Philadelphia, is a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the manufacture and global clinical development of new drug entities in the nucleic acid (NA) class for chronic viral diseases and disorders of the Immune system including HIV, CFS and Hepatitis. Its platform technology includes large and small agent components for potential treatment of various chronic viral infections. For more information visit the company's Web site at [www.hemispherx.net](http://www.hemispherx.net).

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company are experimental in nature and as such are not designated safe and effective by a regulatory authority for general use and are legally available only through clinical trials with the referenced disorders. The forward-looking statements represent the Company's judgment as of the date of this release. The Company disclaims, however, any intent or obligation to update these forward-looking statements.