



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Catabasis Pharmaceuticals Appoints Joanne M. Donovan, M.D., Ph.D., to Chief Medical Officer**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – September 8, 2011 – Catabasis Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company leveraging the therapeutic potential of omega-3 fatty acids and other well-characterized compounds to create dual action medicines for the treatment of inflammatory and metabolic diseases, today announced the appointment of Joanne M. Donovan, M.D., Ph.D., to the position of chief medical officer. In this new role, Dr. Donovan will oversee Catabasis' clinical development and clinical regulatory strategy as the company prepares to begin human clinical trials of its lead program in type 2 diabetes.

“Joanne’s extensive clinical and business development experience will be invaluable to Catabasis as we plan to initiate a Phase 1 clinical study for our diabetes program later this fall,” said Jill C. Milne, Ph.D., chief executive officer and co-founder of Catabasis. “Having led multiple clinical programs through all phases of development from discovery to approvals, Joanne brings strong leadership capabilities and a unique skill set to Catabasis. We look forward to working closely with her as we evolve from a discovery to a clinical stage company.”

Dr. Donovan has deep experience in the biotechnology industry. Prior to joining Catabasis, she held increasing leadership roles at Genzyme Corporation, where she was vice president of clinical research. In this role, Dr. Donovan led multiple programs in clinical and preclinical development, including in cardiovascular-lipid lowering, metabolism and gastroenterology. In addition, she served as the medical lead for multiple business development activities, including out-licensing initiatives and diligence assessments. Dr. Donovan was brought into Genzyme through the acquisition of GelTex where she led multiple clinical programs. Dr. Donovan currently serves as an associate clinical professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. She is also a staff physician at the Boston Veteran’s Administration Medical Center, where she formerly was chief of gastroenterology. Dr. Donovan holds a Ph.D. in medical engineering and medical physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.D. from Harvard Medical School. She completed her postdoctoral training at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

“Catabasis has several exciting programs in development for the treatment of inflammatory and metabolic diseases that leverage the therapeutic benefits of omega-3 fatty acids and other previously established and clinically validated compounds to create a new class of medicines,” said Dr. Donovan. “The company’s lead program targets inflammation, which has been shown to be an underlying cause of many chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes. With the growing prevalence of diabetes worldwide, this is an important area for novel development approaches, and I am delighted to be joining the team.”

## **About Catabasis**

Catabasis is dedicated to the discovery and development of innovative, effective and safe medicines to treat inflammatory and metabolic diseases. The company has assembled a team of passionate and experienced scientists who are committed to improving the lives of patients. Catabasis has developed a pipeline of molecules that amplify the beneficial effects of salicylates and omega-3 fatty acids to target the underlying etiologies of a spectrum of complex human diseases. Catabasis' approach dramatically enhances the therapeutic potential of DHA and EPA, two essential fatty acids found in fish oil, by improving the delivery, potency and efficacy. The company was founded in 2008 and is headquartered in Cambridge, Mass. Please visit [www.catabasispharma.com](http://www.catabasispharma.com) for more information.

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