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## **Copernicus Group IRB Executive Honored as Industry Rising Star**

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Cary, N.C. – Mary Ann Fallon, Chief Operating Officer of Copernicus Group IRB, was honored as an industry Rising Star by the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association at its 2007 HBA Woman of the Year awards held on May 3rd in New York City.

HBA Rising Stars are professionals in various sectors of the healthcare industry, including pharmaceutical, biotechnology, advertising, public relations, medical education and market research, among other fields, and represent various career stages and disciplines. Nominated by HBA Corporate Partners, those receiving the Rising Star award demonstrate outstanding performance and a commitment to excellence that contributes to their companies' success. These inspiring leaders are role models to others and are recognized for their vision, dedication, and action.

“Since joining CGIRB, Mary Ann’s commitment to the success of the organization has fostered a renewed energy within the company during a challenging time of change in leadership”, said Sharon Hill Price, Founder and CEO of CGIRB. “Her strong understanding of the clinical research enterprise, coupled with her proven ability to motivate her team to excellence, has strengthened CGIRB’s business and financial operations as well as our overall human subject protection efforts. Mary Ann not only exhibits all the qualities one would expect from a rising star, but has accomplished this while successfully balancing work with family life.”

Fallon joined Copernicus Group IRB (CGIRB) in January of 2006 as Chief Operating Officer and oversees the business operations of the corporation reporting directly to the CEO and the company’s Board of Directors. Prior to joining CGIRB, Fallon co-founded PharmaResearch Corporation in 1995, a full service contract research organization which eventually grew to over 400 employees. With over 15 years in the pharmaceutical industry, Fallon has experience as a Clinical Program Manager at Glaxo and has managed multiple national and international protocols in several therapeutic areas.

"I am honored to have received this award," said Fallon. "HBA is an important organization for all women in the healthcare industry, providing opportunities for education, networking and professional development. I am proud to be part of the talented group of women that represent this year's Rising Stars."

#### **About Healthcare Businesswomen's Association**

The Healthcare Businesswomen's Association (HBA) is a global not-for profit organization dedicated to furthering the advancement of women in healthcare worldwide. HBA is the premier catalyst for the professional development and leadership of women in healthcare worldwide. Headquartered in New Jersey with global chapters and affiliates, the HBA is in its 30<sup>th</sup> year of providing educational opportunities to develop cutting-edge industry knowledge and leadership skills; recognizing outstanding women in the industry; creating opportunities for networking; creating greater visibility for individuals and fostering mentoring relationships; and serving as a conduit for research on career advancement and employment issues. HBA has more than 3,500 individual members and 100 Corporate Partners and it is widely recognized as the catalyst for the professional development and leadership of women in healthcare worldwide. For further information on HBA or to read more about all the honorees, please go to [www.hbanet.org](http://www.hbanet.org) and click on Woman of the Year.

#### **About Copernicus Group IRB**

Copernicus Group IRB, established in July, 1996, is an independent institutional review board (IRB or "Board") composed of highly qualified individuals dedicated to ensuring the safety and welfare of research study participants. The Board reviews research protocols, investigators, and subject information and consent forms to ensure compliance with federal regulations and consideration of local concerns. CGIRB operates in compliance with Federal Regulations set forth in 21CFR, 45 CFR and ICH/GCP Guidelines and achieved full AAHRPP accreditation in 2004. For further information contact Will Stewart at 919-465-4310 or [wstewart@cgirb.com](mailto:wstewart@cgirb.com).

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