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UNITED THERAPEUTICS ACQUIRES EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO MAJOR NEW DIAGNOSTIC TEST FOR HEART DISEASE

Silver Spring, MD, January 3, 2002: United Therapeutics Corporation (Nasdaq: UTHR) announced today that it acquired exclusive worldwide rights to manufacture, sell and use diagnostic tests for asymmetric dimethylarginine (ADMA), a marker of heart disease risk that some studies show to be more predictive than cholesterol measurements. The test was originally patented by a team led by Professor John Cooke, Director of Vascular Medicine at Stanford University. United Therapeutics reported that the cost of the acquisition to consolidate its exclusive worldwide ownership of the ADMA rights was less than one million dollars.

"I see this acquisition as quite synergistic with our arginine franchise and our cardiovascular market position," said Martine Rothblatt, Chairman and CEO. "Those persons with higher ADMA levels appear to be the ones that achieve the most cardiovascular benefit from arginine supplementation."

United Therapeutics markets an arginine supplementation therapy via its Unither Pharma subsidiary. Significant arginine supplementation has been shown in small randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blinded studies to improve endothelial function, reduce angina associated with coronary artery disease, improve pain-free walking distance in peripheral vascular disease patients and reduce pulmonary artery pressure in persons with pulmonary artery hypertension. More information is available at www.heartbar.net or 1-888-808-6838.

"There is accumulating data from our group and other scientists that ADMA is a predictor of vascular disease," said Professor Cooke. "Indeed, our studies indicate that it may be a better predictor of vascular dysfunction than cholesterol measurements. I believe that ADMA detection will become a very important tool in fighting heart disease in the near future."

United Therapeutics is a biotechnology company focused on combating cardiovascular, infectious and oncological diseases with unique therapeutic products.

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