



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Cato Research Acquires Stake in German Clinical Trial Monitoring Company**

**Research Triangle Park, NC, February 20, 2003** -- Cato Research Ltd., a privately held contract research organization, today announced the acquisition of a substantial interest in Studika Monitoring + Audit GmbH, a German company specializing in clinical trial monitoring, management, and audit services throughout the European Union.

Cato Research acquired its interest in privately held Studika for an undisclosed amount of cash. Headquartered in Cologne, Germany, Studika has a staff of 10 professionals and works closely with a strong network of independent monitors throughout the European Union. The agreement follows a successful long-term strategic relationship between the two companies involving numerous large-scale clinical trial programs in the European Union. Under the agreement, the companies will cooperate in marketing their services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies seeking to introduce new medicines in the United States, Canada, the European Union, Israel, and South Africa.

"This acquisition is the next step in our plan to expand significantly the portfolio of clinical trial service opportunities available to our clients worldwide," said Allen Cato, M.D., Ph.D., cofounder and Chief Executive Officer of Cato Research. "Studika's strong history and expertise in monitoring, managing, and auditing clinical trials, combined with our existing resources in Europe, give us the immediate capability to provide a full range of services to our clients in this critical market."

"This agreement further strengthens our long-term relationship with Cato Research, which combines our expertise with Cato Research's broad capabilities and infrastructure, particularly in the United States," said Brigitte Rohde, founder and a Managing Director of Studika. "Our core strengths include fast and efficient start-up and management of clinical trials in Europe. By working closely within Cato Research, we can now better leverage our strengths globally."

### ***About Cato Research***

Founded in 1988 by Dr. Allen Cato and Lynda Sutton and headquartered near Research Triangle Park, NC, Cato Research is a full-service contract research organization providing strategic and tactical support for clients in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries ranging from design and management of preclinical and clinical studies to submission of regulatory documents required for marketing approval. With a staff of approximately 300 and offices located in the United States, Europe, Canada, Israel, and South Africa, the



Cato Research team consistently demonstrates an unsurpassed level of responsiveness, flexibility, attention to detail, and passion in bringing their clients' products to market rapidly and cost effectively. For more information, visit the company's web site at [www.cato.com](http://www.cato.com).

***About Studika Monitoring + Audit GmbH***

Founded in 1988, Studika offers clinical trial monitoring, management, and audit services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in the European Union and Eastern Europe. Studika's well-trained and multilingual team of scientists has extensive experience in the management of Phase 2 through Phase 4 clinical trials.

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