

Artisan Pharma Raises \$22 Million Series B Financing

Waltham, Mass, March 01, 2010 – Artisan Pharma, Inc., a private biopharmaceutical company dedicated to bringing best-in-class critical care therapeutics to patients, today announced the closing of a \$22 million Series B financing led by Asahi Kasei Pharma Corporation (AKP). Other continuing Series A investors included NGN Capital LLC, JAFCO and Bio*One Capital. In conjunction with this financing, Mr. Naoyuki Ono, General Manager for Business Strategy and Planning for AKP, was elected as a Director. The proceeds from this financing will be used to complete Artisans ongoing 750-patient Phase 2b clinical trial of ART-123 in patients with disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) in sepsis.

“This new financing from AKP and our other existing investors provides the financial resources to complete our Phase 2b study later this year and plan for the next stage of development and partnering,” commented Dr. Shearman.

About ART-123

ART-123 is a novel, recombinant, soluble thrombomodulin for the treatment of DIC (disseminated intravascular coagulation) in sepsis. ART-123 uniquely targets both anti-coagulant and systemic anti-inflammatory pathways, and holds great promise as a self-regulating treatment of DIC in sepsis. Artisan licensed ART-123 from Asahi Kasei Pharma Corporation and holds all development and commercial rights for ART-123 outside of Japan, China, Taiwan and Korea. ART-123 is approved for marketing in Japan for the treatment of DIC. Artisan’s Phase 2b study entitled “A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Phase-2b Study to Assess the Safety and Efficacy Effects of ART-123 on Subjects with Sepsis and Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation” will enroll 750 subjects in over 150 sites worldwide. For further information please refer to <http://clinicaltrials.gov/>

About DIC in Sepsis

Almost 2 million patients in the United States and Europe suffer from sepsis annually, with up to 30% of them developing or being at high risk of developing DIC. For those that do, prognosis is poor. DIC is a severe condition in which widespread microthrombi formation ultimately contributes to organ dysfunction and death. This market is estimated at over \$2 billion and is increasing due to the growing incidence of sepsis in the industrialized world.

About Artisan Pharma, Inc.

Artisan Pharma is a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to bringing best-in-class acute care therapeutics to patients. www.artisanpharma.net