

MEDIA ALERT – MEDICAL & MENTAL HEALTH EDITORS

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

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“BOTOX AS A TREATMENT FOR DEPRESSION” CLINICAL TRIAL ANNOUNCEMENT AND PATIENT RECRUITMENT

(Washington, DC, February 8, 2011) Dermatologist Eric Finzi, MD, PhD, and Dr. Norman E. Rosenthal of Capital Clinical Research Associates, are conducting a double-blind, randomized, placebo controlled clinical trial to investigate Botulinum Toxin A, commonly known as Botox, as a treatment for depression. The clinical trial is a follow up to Dr. Finzi’s pilot study that found nine out of ten clinically depressed patients who were treated with Botox Cosmetic to the glabellar (frown lines between the eyes) were no longer clinically depressed two months post treatment. The pilot study was published May 15, 2006 in the medical journal *Dermatologic Surgery* by the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery. To review the pilot study, go to www.drfinzi.com. To see if you are eligible to participate in the double-blind study open to all clinically depressed persons living in the DC metropolitan area, go to www.ccraresearch.com or call 301-770-7375.

Dr. Finzi initiated an open pilot trial to determine whether inhibiting facial frowning by injecting the wrinkle treatment Botox could improve depressive symptoms. Dr. Finzi created the trial after learning that patients with paralyzed facial muscles often had difficulty feeling sadness. He also noted that significant depression diagnoses showed up in patients with very strong frown lines. Interestingly, Charles Darwin had suggested long ago that facial muscle and skin movement may contribute to our moods and emotions. “Based on our very positive pilot study results, the current study is being initiated to rigorously assess the potential role of Botulinum Toxin A in treating major depression” said Dr. Finzi.

According to the American Psychiatric Association (APA), an estimated 10 to 25% of women and 5 to 10% of men will develop a major depressive disorder at some time in their lives. External symptoms often include facial muscles that create a distressed or sad appearance: furrowed brows, raised eyebrows, or anxious expressions.

Capital Clinical Research Associates (CCRA) is a private clinical research center specializing in pharmaceutical research aimed at improving the treatment for emotional and behavioral health. Located in Rockville, Maryland, CCRA draws participants from the entire metropolitan DC area. The CCRA team is made up of board-certified psychiatrists, experienced clinicians and highly qualified research coordinators. Medical Director, Norman E. Rosenthal, MD, supervises research and patient care throughout each study.

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