



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Eileen Petridis
Falls Communications
(216) 696-0229
epetridis@fallscommunications.com

**FDA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
HEARS TESTIMONY REGARDING NEED FOR
NON-HORMONAL MENOPAUSE THERAPIES**

**The North American Menopause Society Advocates for More Women's Health Choices;
Presents Survey Results from Clinicians and Consumers
Demonstrating Need for Non-Hormonal Options**

CLEVELAND, OH (*March 4, 2013*) – The FDA Advisory Committee on Reproductive Health in Washington today began to hear testimony from dozens of medical professionals who are advocating the approval of new non-hormonal therapies for the treatment of menopause symptoms. Representing The North American Menopause Society (NAMS) was Dr. Margery Gass, its Executive Director, who provided survey results from thousands of clinicians and consumers who documented a need for new non-hormonal options for perimenopausal and menopausal women.

"We felt strongly that we needed to have a voice in this important issue," said Dr. Gass. "NAMS has always served as a strong advocate for women's health. Our members are on the front lines of treating women with such menopausal symptoms as hot flashes, night sweats, disrupted sleep, and vaginal dryness. As such, they are in a position to offer valuable insights regarding the need for additional non-hormonal options to treat these and other menopausal symptoms."

In preparation for the FDA hearings, NAMS issued surveys to its professional members, as well as consumers. Nearly 94 percent of the professionals who responded affirmed that there was, indeed, a need for non-hormonal options.

For the consumers who responded to the survey, nearly 90% indicated a need for non-hormonal therapies. Approximately 84% of the respondents reported having hot flashes, with a majority of those describing their hot flashes as moderate-to-severe.

“Although hormone therapy (HT) provides a safe and effective option for many women, it is not the right choice for all women, because of health histories such as breast cancer or previous blood clots and, oftentimes, an unfounded fear regarding the risks of hormones,” said Dr. Gass. “For these women, who represent a statistically significant portion of the menopausal population, we must identify additional options. My goal in testifying before the FDA Advisory Committee was to provide persuasive evidence regarding the need to offer women more choices. NAMS does not promote the use of specific drugs or brands, but we do support various categories of proposed treatment options that have proven effective in minimizing menopause symptoms.”

To learn more about The North American Menopause Society (NAMS), menopause or the various proposed therapies, visit www.menopause.org.