



Contacts: Meg McGilley
Chief Financial Officer
(858) 480-0402

Rob Whetstone
PondelWilkinson, Inc.
(310) 279-5963

Somaxon Pharmaceuticals to Announce Results of Phase 3 Clinical Trial of SILENOR[™] for the Treatment of Insomnia in Elderly Patients and Host Conference Call

SAN DIEGO, CA – December 17, 2006 – Somaxon Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ: SOMX) today said that, tomorrow morning, Monday, December 18, the company plans to issue results from its Phase 3 clinical trial of SILENOR[™] (doxepin HCl) for the treatment of insomnia in elderly patients. Additionally, Somaxon management will host a conference call Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time to review the results of this Phase 3 trial.

Callers may participate in the conference call by dialing (800) 219-6110 (domestic) or (303) 262-2211 (international). A telephonic replay will be available for approximately one week following the conclusion of the call by dialing (800) 405-2236 (domestic) or (303) 590-3000 (international), and entering passcode 11079304#. The conference call also will be available to interested parties through a live audio Internet broadcast at www.somaxon.com and www.opencompany.info. The call will be archived and accessible at both sites for approximately one year.

About Somaxon Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Headquartered in San Diego, CA, Somaxon Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the in-licensing and development of proprietary product candidates for the treatment of diseases and disorders in the fields of psychiatry and neurology. Somaxon has completed four successful Phase 3 clinical trials for its lead

product candidate, SILENOR™ (doxepin HCl) for the treatment of insomnia. Somaxon expects to file a New Drug Application with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for SILENOR™ in the third quarter of 2007, assuming that its preclinical studies are successful and proceed as currently scheduled. Somaxon has completed a pilot Phase 2 trial for nalmefene in smoking cessation with positive results and a Phase 2/3 clinical trial for nalmefene for the treatment of pathological gambling that did not achieve statistical significance for the primary or secondary endpoints. The company will evaluate the results from both of these trials before making determinations regarding the future of the nalmefene program. Acamprosate Ca, a potential treatment for movement disorders, is currently in formulation development.

For more information, please visit the company's web site at www.somaxon.com.

###