

Mail Stop 6010

September 17, 2008

John F. Weidenbruch, Esq.  
Executive Vice President and General Counsel  
Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
60 Hampshire Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

**Re: Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Registration Statement on Form S-3  
Filed September 12, 2008  
File Number 333-153471**

Dear Mr. Weidenbruch:

We have limited our review of your filing to those issues we have addressed in our comments. Where indicated, we think you should revise your document in response to these comments. If you disagree, we will consider your explanation as to why our comment is inapplicable or a revision is unnecessary. Please be as detailed as necessary in your explanation. In some of our comments, we may ask you to provide us with information so we may better understand your disclosure. After reviewing this information, we may raise additional comments.

Please understand that the purpose of our review process is to assist you in your compliance with the applicable disclosure requirements and to enhance the overall disclosure in your filing. We look forward to working with you in these respects. We welcome any questions you may have about our comments or any other aspect of our review. Feel free to call us at the telephone numbers listed at the end of this letter.

Form S- 3

General

1. Please quantify the number of shares being registered for resale in your registration statement.
2. We note that your fee table indicates that you are registering an aggregate of \$100 million of common stock to be sold by both the company and the selling stockholders. Please revise your fee table to separately identify the shares being

registered by the registrant and the shares being registered for resale by the selling stockholders. In addition, please revise the cover page of your prospectus to reflect this information.

Selling Stockholders, page 8

3. We note that your registration statement includes shares to be sold by the selling stockholders. Please provide a description of the transactions in which the shares being registered were issued to the selling stockholders.

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As appropriate, please amend your registration statement in response to these comments. You may wish to provide us with marked copies of the amendment to expedite our review. Please furnish a cover letter with your amendment that keys your responses to our comments and provides any requested information. Detailed cover letters greatly facilitate our review. Please understand that we may have additional comments after reviewing your amendment and responses to our comments.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in your filing to be certain that the filing includes all information required under the Securities Act of 1933 and that they have provided all information investors require for an informed investment decision. Since the company and its management are in possession of all facts relating to a company's disclosure, they are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures they have made.

Notwithstanding our comments, in the event the company requests acceleration of the effective date of the pending registration statement, it should furnish a letter, at the time of such request, acknowledging that:

- should the Commission or the staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, declare the filing effective, it does not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filing;
- the action of the Commission or the staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, in declaring the filing effective, does not relieve the company from its full responsibility for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filing; and
- the company may not assert staff comments and the declaration of effectiveness as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

John F. Weidenbruch, Esq.  
Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc  
September 17, 2008  
Page 3

In addition, please be advised that the Division of Enforcement has access to all information you provide to the staff of the Division of Corporation Finance in connection with your filing.

We will consider a written request for acceleration of the effective date of the registration statement as confirmation of the fact that those requesting acceleration are aware of their respective responsibilities under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as they relate to the proposed public offering of the securities specified in the above registration statement. We will act on the request and, pursuant to delegated authority, grant acceleration of the effective date.

We direct your attention to Rules 460 and 461 regarding requesting acceleration of a registration statement. Please allow adequate time after the filing of any amendment for further review before submitting a request for acceleration. Please provide this request at least two business days in advance of the requested effective date.

Please contact Bryan Pitko at (202) 551-3203 or me at (202) 551-3715 with any other questions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Riedler  
Assistant Director

CC: Susan Murley, Esq.  
Wilmer Cutler Pickering  
Hale and Dorr LLP  
60 State Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109