Registration No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

INHALE THERAPEUTIC SYSTEMS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware94-3134940(State of incorporation)(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

150 Industrial Road San Carlos, CA 94070 (Address of principal executive offices)

2000 NON-OFFICER EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

(Full title of the plans)

Ajit S. Gill Chief Executive Officer and President Inhale Therapeutic Systems, Inc. 150 Industrial Road San Carlos, CA 94070 (650) 631-3100

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:
Mark P. Tanoury, Esq.
John M. Geschke, Esq.
Cooley Godward LLP
Five Palo Alto Square
3000 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, California 94306
(650) 843-5000

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered (1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share (2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (2)	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock (par value \$0.0001)	1,900,000	See Notes to Calculation of Registration Fee below	\$40,847,024.00	\$10,211.76

(1)

^{1,900,000} shares to be registered pursuant to the 2000 Non-Officer Equity Incentive Plan. This registration statement shall cover any additional shares of Common Stock which become issuable under the 2000 Non-Officer Equity Incentive Plan set forth herein by reason of any stock dividend, stock split, recapitalization or any other similar transaction without receipt of consideration which results in an increase in the number of shares of the Registrant's outstanding Common Stock.

Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(h). The price per share and aggregate offering price of the shares to be offered under the plans are based upon: (a) the weighted average exercise price for shares issuable pursuant to outstanding options granted under the 2000 Non-Officer Equity Incentive Plan and (b) the average of the high and low prices of the Registrant's Common Stock on October 12, 2001, as reported on the Nasdaq National Market (pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended) for shares reserved for future issuance under the 2000 Non-Officer Equity Incentive Plan. The registration fee is calculated as follows:

Plan	Number of Shares	0	offering Price Per Share	_	Aggregate Offering Price
Shares issuable pursuant to outstanding options under the 2000 Non-Officer	990 000	¢	26.2373	\$	22 000 024 00
Equity Incentive Plan	880,000	Ф	20,23/3	Ф	23,088,824.00
Shares reserved for future issuance under the 2000 Non-Officer Equity Incentive					
Plan	1,020,000	\$	17.41	\$	17,758,200.00
Total				\$	40,847,024.00

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE OF CONTENTS OF REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON FORM S-8 NO. 333-65919, REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON FORM S-8 NO. 333-74669, REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON FORM S-8 NO. 333-32788, AND REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON FORM S-8 NO. 333-54078.

The contents of Registration Statement on Form S-8 No. 333-65919 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 20, 1998, Registration Statement on Form S-8 No. 333-74669 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 19, 1999, Registration Statement on Form S-8 No. 333-54078 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 17, 2000, and Registration Statement on Form S-8 No. 333-54078 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 19, 2001 are incorporated by reference herein.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number		Description	
3.1	(1)	Certificate of Incorporation of Inhale.	
3.2	(1)	Bylaws of Inhale.	
3.3	(2)	Certificate of Amendment of the Amended Certificate of Incorporation.	
4.1		Reference is made to Exhibits 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.	
4.2	(3)	Restated Investor Rights Agreement, dated April 29, 1993, as amended October 29, 1993, by and among Inhale and certain other persons named therein.	
4.3	(4)	Stock Purchase Agreement, dated January 18, 1995, by and between Inhale and Pfizer Inc.	
4.4	(5)	Form of Purchase Agreement, dated January 28, 1997, by and between Inhale and the individual Purchasers.	
4.5	(6)	Stock Purchase Agreement, dated December 8, 1998, by and between Inhale and Capital Research and Management Company.	
4.6	(7)	Purchase Agreement, dated October 6, 1999, by and among Inhale and Lehman Brothers Inc., Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. and U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc.	
4.7	(7)	Registration Rights Agreement, dated October 13, 1999, by and among Inhale and Lehman Brothers Inc., Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. and U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc.	
4.8	(7)	Indenture, dated October 13, 1999, by and between Inhale as Issuer and Chase Manhattan Bank and Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee.	
4.9	(7)	Form of Inhale Registration Rights Agreement, dated January 25, 2000, by and between Inhale and Selling Shareholder.	
4.10	(8)	Purchase Agreement, dated February 2, 2000, by and among Inhale and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., Lehman Brothers Inc. and U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc.	
4.11	(8)	Resale Registration Rights Agreement, dated February 8, 2000, by and among Inhale and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., Lehman Brothers Inc. and U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc.	
4.12	(8)	Indenture, dated February 8, 2000, by and between Inhale as Issuer and Chase Manhattan Bank and Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee.	
4.13	(2)	Specimen common stock certificate.	

4.14 Specimen warrants to purchase shares of common stock. Purchase Agreement, dated October 11, 2000, by and among Inhale and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, 4.15 Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., Lehman Brothers Inc., and U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc. Resale Registration Rights Agreement, dated October 17, 2000, by and among Inhale and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith 4.16 (10)Incorporated, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., Lehman Brothers Inc. and U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc. 4.17 (10)Indenture, dated October 17, 2000, by and between Inhale, as Issuer, and Chase Manhattan Bank and Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee. 4.18 (11)Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock. 4.19 (11)Rights Agreement, dated June 1, 2001, by and among Inhale and Mellon Investor Services LLC. 4.20 (11)Form of Right Certificate. 5.1 (12)Opinion of Cooley Godward LLP. 23.1 (12)Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors. 23.2 (12)Consent of Cooley Godward LLP. Reference is made to Exhibit 5.1. 24.1 Power of Attorney. Reference is made to Signature Page. 99.1 2000 Non-Officer Equity Incentive Plan, as amended. (12)(1) Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1998. (2) Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2000. (3) Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (No. 33-75942), as amended. (4) Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (No. 33-89502), as amended. (5) Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-20787), filed on January 31, 1997. (6) Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-68897), as amended. (7) Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-94161), as amended. (8) Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999. (9)Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2000. (10)Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-53678), filed on January 12, 2001. (11)Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on June 4, 2001. (12)Filed herewith.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of San Carlos, State of California, on October 19, 2001.

${\bf INHALE\ THERAPEUTIC\ SYSTEMS,\ INC.}$

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Ajit S. Gill and Brigid A. Makes, and each or any one of them, his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this registration statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto the attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that the attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them, or their or his or her substitutes or substitute, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date	
/s/ Ajit S. Gill	Chief Executive Officer and President (Principal Executive Officer)	October 19, 2001	
Ajit S. Gill	(Tillcipal Executive Officer)		
/s/ Brigid A. Makes	Chief Financial Officer and Vice President (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	October 19, 2001	
Brigid A. Makes	(Tinicipal Financial and Accounting Officer)		
/s/ Robert B. Chess			
Robert B. Chess	Chairman of the Board	October 19, 2001	
/s/ John S. Patton	Vice President and Director	October 19, 2001	
John S. Patton			
/s/ James B. Glavin			
James B. Glavin	Director	October 19, 2001	
/s/ Melvin Perelman			
Melvin Perelman	Director	October 19, 2001	
/s/ Irwin Lerner			
Irwin Lerner	Director	October 19, 2001	
/s/ Roy A. Whitfield			
Roy A. Whitfield	Director	October 19, 2001	

EXHIBIT INDEX

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	4.17	(10)	Indenture, dated October 17, 2000, by and between Inhale, as Issuer, and Chase Manhattan Bank and Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee.
	4.18	(11)	Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock.
	4.19	(11)	Rights Agreement, dated June 1, 2001, by and among Inhale and Mellon Investor Services LLC.
	4.20	(11)	Form of Right Certificate.
	5.1	(12)	Opinion of Cooley Godward LLP.
	23.1	(12)	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors.
	23.2	(12)	Consent of Cooley Godward LLP. Reference is made to Exhibit 5.1.
	24.1	(12)	Power of Attorney. Reference is made to Signature Page.
	99.1	(12)	2000 Non-Officer Equity Incentive Plan, as amended.
)	Incorporated	by refer	ence to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1998.
)	T . 1		
١	Incorporated	by refer	ence to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2000.
,	-		ence to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2000. ence to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (No. 33-75942), as amended.
)	Incorporated	by refer	
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))	Incorporated Incorporated	by referonders	ence to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (No. 33-75942), as amended. ence to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (No. 33-89502), as amended.

Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

Incorporated by reference to the indicated exhibit in Inhale's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2000.
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QuickLinks

EXHIBITS
SIGNATURES
POWER OF ATTORNEY
EXHIBIT INDEX

Filed herewith.

Exhibit 5.1

October 19, 2001

Inhale Therapeutic Systems, Inc. 150 Industrial Road San Carlos, CA 94070

Ladies and Gentlemen:

You have requested our opinion with respect to certain matters in connection with the filing by **INHALE THERAPEUTIC SYSTEMS, INC.** (the "Registrant") of a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") with the Securities and Exchange Commission covering the offering of up to an aggregate of 1,900,000 shares of the Registrant's Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value (the "Shares"), pursuant to the Registrant's 2000 Non-Officer Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan").

In connection with this opinion, we have examined the Registration Statement, the Plan, the Registrant's Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws and such other documents, records, certificates, memoranda and other instruments as we deem necessary as a basis for this opinion. We have assumed the genuineness and authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to originals of all documents submitted to us as copies thereof and the due execution and delivery of all documents where due execution and delivery are a prerequisite to the effectiveness thereof.

On the basis of the foregoing, and in reliance thereon, we are of the opinion that the Shares, when sold and issued in accordance with the Plan and the Registration Statement, will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable (except as to shares issued pursuant to certain deferred payment arrangements, which will be fully paid and nonassessable when such deferred payments are made in full).

We consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the S-8 Registration Statement.

Sincerely,

COOLEY GODWARD LLP

/s/ Mark P. Tanoury

Mark P. Tanoury, Esq.

QuickLinks

Exhibit 5.1

Exhibit 23.1

CONSENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP, INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

We consent to the reference in the Registration Statement Form S-8 pertaining to the 2000 Non-Officer Equity Incentive Plan of Inhale Therapeutic Systems, Inc. and to the incorporation by reference therein of our report dated January 23, 2001, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and of Inhale Therapeutic Systems, Inc. included in its Form 10-K, as amended, for the year ended December 31, 2000, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Palo Alto, California October 18, 2001

QuickLinks

Exhibit 23.1

CONSENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP, INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

INHALE THERAPEUTIC SYSTEMS, INC.

2000 NON-OFFICER EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

Adopted August 18, 1998
Amended February 23, 1999
Amended December 14, 1999
Amended and Restated June 6, 2000
Adjusted for 2-for-1 Stock Split on August 22, 2000
Amended August 22, 2000
Amended January 16, 2001
Amended June 28, 2001
Amended September 6, 2001
Stockholder Approval Not Required
Termination Date: None

1. PURPOSES.

- (a) Amendment and Restatement. The 1998 Non-Officer Equity Incentive Plan initially was adopted on August 18, 1998 (the "1998 Plan"). The 1998 Plan hereby is amended and restated in its entirety, effective upon adoption by the Board, and renamed the "2000 Non-Officer Equity Incentive Plan." The terms of the Plan shall apply to all Stock Awards granted pursuant to the Initial Plan.
- **(b) Eligible Stock Award Recipients.** The persons eligible to receive Stock Awards are the Employees and Consultants of the Company and its Affiliates who are neither Officers nor Directors.
- (c) Available Stock Awards. The purpose of the Plan is to provide a means by which eligible recipients of Stock Awards may be given an opportunity to benefit from increases in value of the Common Stock through the granting of the following Stock Awards: (i) Nonstatutory Stock Options, (ii) stock bonuses and (iii) rights to acquire restricted stock.
- **(d) General Purpose**. The Company, by means of the Plan, seeks to retain the services of the group of persons eligible to receive Stock Awards, to secure and retain the services of new members of this group and to provide incentives for such persons to exert maximum efforts for the success of the Company and its Affiliates.

2. DEFINITIONS.

- (a) "Affiliate" means any parent corporation or subsidiary corporation of the Company, whether now or hereafter existing, as those terms are defined in Sections 424(e) and (f), respectively, of the Code.
 - **(b)** "*Board*" means the Board of Directors of the Company.
 - (c) "Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
 - **(d)** "*Committee*" means a Committee appointed by the Board in accordance with subsection 3(c).
 - (e) "Common Stock" means the common stock of the Company.
 - (f) "Company" means Inhale Therapeutic Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation.
- (g) "Consultant" means any person, including an advisor, (i) engaged by the Company or an Affiliate to render consulting or advisory services and who is compensated for such services or (ii) who is a member of the Board of Directors of an Affiliate. However, the term "Consultant" shall not include Directors of the Company
- (h) "Continuous Service" means that the Participant's service with the Company or an Affiliate, whether as an Employee or Consultant, is not interrupted or terminated. The Participant's Continuous Service shall not be deemed to have terminated merely because of a change in the capacity in which the Participant renders service to the Company or an Affiliate as an Employee, Consultant or Director or a change in the entity for which the Participant renders such service, provided that there is no interruption or termination of the Participant's Continuous Service. For example, a change in status from an Employee of the Company to a Consultant of an Affiliate or a Director of the Company will not constitute an interruption of Continuous Service. The Board or the chief executive officer of the Company, in that party's sole discretion, may determine whether Continuous Service shall be considered interrupted in the case of any leave of absence approved by that party, including sick leave, military leave or any other personal leave.
 - (i) "*Director*" means a member of the Board of Directors of the Company.
 - (j) "Disability" means the permanent and total disability of a person within the meaning of Section 22(e)(3) of the Code.
- **(k)** "*Employee*" means any person employed by the Company or an Affiliate. Mere service as a Director or payment of a director's fee by the Company or an Affiliate shall not be sufficient to constitute "employment" by the Company or an Affiliate.
 - (l) "Exchange Act" means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

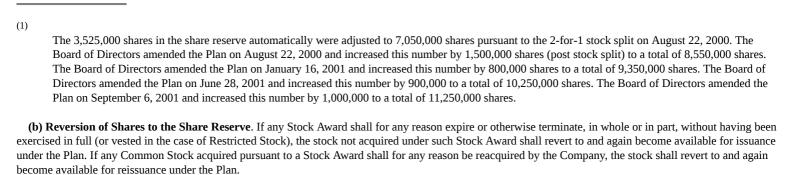
- (m) "Fair Market Value" means, as of any date, the value of the Common Stock determined as follows:
 - (i) If the Common Stock is listed on any established stock exchange or traded on the Nasdaq National Market System or the Nasdaq SmallCap Market, the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock shall be the closing sales price for such stock (or the closing bid, if no sales were reported) as quoted on such exchange or market (or the exchange or market with the greatest volume of trading in the Common Stock) on the last market trading day prior to the day of determination, as reported in *The Wall Street Journal* or such other source as the Board deems reliable.
 - (ii) In the absence of such markets for the Common Stock, the Fair Market Value shall be determined in good faith by the Board.
- (n) "Nonstatutory Stock Option" means an option not intended to qualify as an Incentive Stock Option within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
- (o) "Officer" means (i) a person who is an officer of the Company within the meaning of Section 16 of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder and (ii) any other person designated by the Company as an officer.
 - **(p)** "*Option*" means a Nonstatutory Stock Option granted pursuant to the Plan.
- (q) "*Option Agreement*" means a written agreement between the Company and an Optionholder evidencing the terms and conditions of an individual Option grant. Each Option Agreement shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan.
 - (r) "Optionholder" means a person to whom an Option is granted pursuant to the Plan or, if applicable, such other person who holds an outstanding Option.
- (s) "Participant" means a person to whom a Stock Award is granted pursuant to the Plan or, if applicable, such other person who holds an outstanding Stock Award.
 - (t) "Plan" means this Inhale Therapeutic Systems, Inc. 2000 Non-Officer Equity Incentive Plan.

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- (u) "Rule 16b-3" means Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act or any successor to Rule 16b-3, as in effect from time to time.
- (v) "Securities Act" means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- (w) "Stock Award" means any right granted under the Plan, including an Option, a stock bonus and a right to acquire restricted stock.
- (x) "Stock Award Agreement" means a written agreement between the Company and a holder of a Stock Award evidencing the terms and conditions of an individual Stock Award grant. Each Stock Award Agreement shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan.

3. ADMINISTRATION.

- (a) Administration by Board. The Board will administer the Plan unless and until the Board delegates administration to a Committee, as provided in subsection 3(c).
 - (b) Powers of Board. The Board shall have the power, subject to, and within the limitations of, the express provisions of the Plan:
 - (i) To determine from time to time which of the persons eligible under the Plan shall be granted Stock Awards; when and how each Stock Award shall be granted; what type or combination of types of Stock Award shall be granted; the provisions of each Stock Award granted (which need not be identical), including the time or times when a person shall be permitted to receive stock pursuant to a Stock Award; and the number of shares with respect to which a Stock Award shall be granted to each such person.
 - (ii) To construe and interpret the Plan and Stock Awards granted under it, and to establish, amend and revoke rules and regulations for its administration. The Board, in the exercise of this power, may correct any defect, omission or inconsistency in the Plan or in any Stock Award Agreement, in a manner and to the extent it shall deem necessary or expedient to make the Plan fully effective.
 - (iii) To amend the Plan or a Stock Award as provided in Section 12.
 - (iv) Generally, to exercise such powers and to perform such acts as the Board deems necessary or expedient to promote the best interests of the Company that are not in conflict with the provisions of the Plan.
- (c) Delegation to Committee. The Board may delegate administration of the Plan to a Committee or Committees of one (1) or more members of the Board, and the term "Committee" shall apply to any person or persons to whom such authority has been delegated. If administration is delegated to a Committee, the Committee shall have, in connection with the administration of the Plan, the powers theretofore possessed by the Board, including the power to delegate to a subcommittee any of the administrative powers the Committee is authorized to exercise (and references in this Plan to the Board shall thereafter be to the Committee or subcommittee), subject, however, to such resolutions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Plan, as may be adopted from time to time by the Board. The Board may abolish the Committee at any time and revest in the Board the administration of the Plan.
- (d) Effect of Board's Decision. All determinations, interpretations and constructions made by the Board in good faith shall not be subject to review by any person and shall be final, binding and conclusive on all persons.



(a) Share Reserve. Subject to the provisions of Section 11 relating to adjustments upon changes in stock, the stock that may be issued pursuant to Stock

(c) Source of Shares. The stock subject to the Plan may be unissued shares or reacquired shares, bought on the market or otherwise.

5. ELIGIBILITY.

(a) Eligibility. Stock Awards may be granted only to Employees and Consultants who are neither Officers nor Directors.

Awards shall not exceed in the aggregate eleven million two hundred fifty thousand (11,250,000)⁽¹⁾ shares of Common Stock.

- **(b) Consultants.** A Consultant shall not be eligible for the grant of a Stock Award if, at the time of grant, a Form S-8 Registration Statement under the Securities Act ("Form S-8") is not available to register either the offer or the sale of the Company's securities to such Consultant because of the nature of the services that the Consultant is providing to the Company, or because the Consultant is not a natural person, or as otherwise provided by the rules governing the use of Form S-8, unless the Company determines both (i) that such grant (A) shall be registered in another manner under the Securities Act (*e.g.*, on a Form S-3 Registration Statement) or (B) does not require registration under the Securities Act in order to comply with the requirements of the Securities Act, if applicable, and (ii) that such grant complies with the securities laws of all other relevant jurisdictions. (2)
- Form S-8 generally is available to consultants and advisors only if (i) they are natural persons; (ii) they provide bona fide services to the issuer, its parents, its majority-owned subsidiaries or majority-owned subsidiaries of the issuer's parent; and (iii) the services are not in connection with the offer or sale of securities in a capital-raising transaction, and do not directly or indirectly promote or maintain a market for the issuer's securities.

6. OPTION PROVISIONS.

Each Option shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as the Board shall deem appropriate. The provisions of separate Options need not be identical, but each Option shall include (through incorporation of provisions hereof by reference in the Option or otherwise) the substance of each of the following provisions:

(a) Exercise Price. The Board shall determine the exercise price of each Option.

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(b) Consideration.

- (i) The purchase price of stock acquired pursuant to an Option shall be paid, to the extent permitted by applicable statutes and regulations, either (A) in cash at the time the Option is exercised or (B) at the discretion of the Board at the time of the grant of the Option (or subsequently) by delivery to the Company of other Common Stock, according to a deferred payment or other similar arrangement (which may include, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the use of other Common Stock) with the Participant or in any other form of legal consideration that may be acceptable to the Board; provided, however, that at any time that the Company is incorporated in Delaware, payment of the Common Stock's "par value," as defined in the Delaware General Corporation Law, shall not be made by deferred payment.
- (ii) Unless otherwise specifically provided in the Option, the purchase price of Common Stock acquired pursuant to an Option that is paid by delivery to the Company of other Common Stock acquired, directly or indirectly from the Company, shall be paid only by shares of the Common Stock of the Company that have been held for more than six (6) months (or such longer or shorter period of time required to avoid a charge to earnings for financial accounting purposes).
- (iii) In the case of any deferred payment arrangement, interest shall be compounded at least annually and shall be charged at the minimum rate of interest necessary to avoid the treatment as interest, under any applicable provisions of the Code, of any amounts other than amounts stated to be interest under the deferred payment arrangement.
- (c) Transferability. An Option shall be transferable to the extent provided in the Option Agreement. If the Option does not provide for transferability, then the Option shall not be transferable except by will or by the laws of descent and distribution and shall be exercisable during the lifetime of the Optionholder only by the Optionholder. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection 6(c), the Optionholder may, by delivering written notice to the Company, in a form satisfactory to the Company, designate a third party who, in the event of the death of the Optionholder, shall thereafter be entitled to exercise the Option.
- **(d) Vesting Generally.** The total number of shares of Common Stock subject to an Option may, but need not, vest and therefore become exercisable in periodic installments that may, but need not, be equal. The Option may be subject to such other terms and conditions on the time or times when it may be exercised (which may be based on performance or other criteria) as the Board may deem appropriate. The vesting provisions of individual Options may vary. The provisions of this subsection 6(d) are subject to any Option provisions governing the minimum number of shares as to which an Option may be exercised.

- **(e) Termination of Continuous Service.** In the event an Optionholder's Continuous Service terminates (other than upon the Optionholder's death or Disability), the Optionholder may exercise his or her Option (to the extent that the Optionholder was entitled to exercise it as of the date of termination) but only within such period of time ending on the earlier of (i) the date three (3) months following the termination of the Optionholder's Continuous Service (or such longer or shorter period specified in the Option Agreement), or (ii) the expiration of the term of the Option as set forth in the Option Agreement. If, after termination, the Optionholder does not exercise his or her Option within the time specified in the Option Agreement, the Option shall terminate.
- **(f) Extension of Termination Date**. An Optionholder's Option Agreement may also provide that if the exercise of the Option following the termination of the Optionholder's Continuous Service (other than upon the Optionholder's death or Disability) would be prohibited at any time solely because the issuance of shares would violate the registration requirements under the

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Securities Act, then the Option shall terminate on the earlier of (i) the expiration of the term of the Option set forth in subsection 6(a) or (ii) the expiration of three months (or such longer or shorter period specified in the Option Agreement) after the termination of the Optionholder's Continuous Service during which the exercise of the Option would not be in violation of such registration requirements.

- **(g) Disability of Optionholder**. In the event an Optionholder's Continuous Service terminates as a result of the Optionholder's Disability, the Optionholder may exercise his or her Option (to the extent that the Optionholder was entitled to exercise it as of the date of termination), but only within such period of time ending on the earlier of (i) the date twelve (12) months following such termination (or such longer or shorter period specified in the Option Agreement) or (ii) the expiration of the term of the Option as set forth in the Option Agreement. If, after termination, the Optionholder does not exercise his or her Option within the time specified herein, the Option shall terminate.
- (h) Death of Optionholder. In the event an Optionholder's Continuous Service terminates as a result of the Optionholder's death, then, subject to any restrictions in the Option Agreement, the Option shall become fully vested and exercisable as of the date of termination. In the event (i) an Optionholder's Continuous Service terminates as a result of the Optionholder's death or (ii) the Optionholder dies within the period (if any) specified in the Option Agreement after the termination of the Optionholder's Continuous Service for a reason other than death, then the Option may be exercised (to the extent the Optionholder was entitled to exercise the Option as of the date of death) by the Optionholder's estate, by a person who acquired the right to exercise the Option by bequest or inheritance or by a person designated to exercise the Option upon the Optionholder's death pursuant to subsection 6(c), but only within the period ending on the earlier of (1) the date eighteen (18) months following the date of death (or such longer or shorter period specified in the Option Agreement) or (2) the expiration of the term of such Option as set forth in the Option Agreement. If, after death, the Option is not exercised within the time specified herein, the Option shall terminate.
- (i) Early Exercise. The Option may, but need not, include a provision whereby the Optionholder may elect at any time before the Optionholder's Continuous Service terminates to exercise the Option as to any part or all of the shares subject to the Option prior to the full vesting of the Option. Any unvested shares so purchased may be subject to an unvested share repurchase option in favor of the Company or to any other restriction the Board determines to be appropriate.

7. PROVISIONS OF STOCK AWARDS OTHER THAN OPTIONS.

- (a) Stock Bonus Awards. Each stock bonus agreement shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as the Board shall deem appropriate. The terms and conditions of stock bonus agreements may change from time to time, and the terms and conditions of separate stock bonus agreements need not be identical, but each stock bonus agreement shall include (through incorporation of provisions hereof by reference in the agreement or otherwise) the substance of each of the following provisions:
 - (i) Consideration. A stock bonus shall be awarded in consideration for past services actually rendered to the Company or an Affiliate for its benefit.
 - (ii) Vesting. Shares of Common Stock awarded under the stock bonus agreement may, but need not, be subject to a share repurchase option in favor of the Company in accordance with a vesting schedule to be determined by the Board.

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- (iii) Termination of Participant's Continuous Service. In the event a Participant's Continuous Service terminates, the Company may reacquire any or all of the shares of Common Stock held by the Participant that have not vested as of the date of termination under the terms of the stock bonus agreement; provided, however, that in the event a Participant's Continuous Service terminates as a result of the Participant's death, then, subject to any restrictions in the stock bonus agreement, the shares acquired pursuant to the stock bonus agreement shall become fully vested as of the date of termination.
- **(iv) Transferability.** Rights to acquire shares under the stock bonus agreement shall be transferable by the Participant only upon such terms and conditions as are set forth in the stock bonus agreement, as the Board shall determine in its discretion, so long as stock awarded under the stock bonus agreement remains subject to the terms of the stock bonus agreement.
- **(b) Restricted Stock Awards**. Each restricted stock purchase agreement shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as the Board shall deem appropriate. The terms and conditions of the restricted stock purchase agreements may change from time to time, and the terms and conditions of separate restricted stock purchase agreements need not be identical, but each restricted stock purchase agreement shall include (through incorporation of provisions hereof by reference in the agreement or otherwise) the substance of each of the following provisions:
 - (i) Purchase Price. The purchase price under each restricted stock purchase agreement shall be such amount as the Board shall determine and designate in such restricted stock purchase agreement.
 - (ii) Consideration. The purchase price of stock acquired pursuant to the restricted stock purchase agreement shall be paid either: (1) in cash at the time of purchase; (2) at the discretion of the Board, according to a deferred payment or other similar arrangement with the Participant; or (3) in any other form of legal consideration that may be acceptable to the Board in its discretion; provided, however, that at any time that the Company is incorporated in Delaware, payment of the Common Stock's "par value," as defined in the Delaware General Corporation Law, shall not be made by deferred payment.

- (iii) Vesting. Shares of Common Stock acquired under the restricted stock purchase agreement may, but need not, be subject to a share repurchase option in favor of the Company in accordance with a vesting schedule to be determined by the Board.
- **(iv) Termination of Participant's Continuous Service.** In the event a Participant's Continuous Service terminates, the Company may repurchase or otherwise reacquire any or all of the shares of Common Stock held by the Participant that have not vested as of the date of termination under the terms of the restricted stock purchase agreement; provided, however, that in the event a Participant's Continuous Service terminates as a result of the Participant's death, then, subject to any restrictions in the restricted stock purchase agreement, the shares acquired pursuant to the restricted stock purchase agreement shall become fully vested as of the date of termination.
- **(v) Transferability**. Rights to acquire shares under the restricted stock purchase agreement shall be transferable by the Participant only upon such terms and conditions as are set forth in the restricted stock purchase agreement, as the Board shall determine in its discretion, so long as stock awarded under the restricted stock purchase agreement remains subject to the terms of the restricted stock purchase agreement.

8. COVENANTS OF THE COMPANY.

(a) Availability of Shares. During the terms of the Stock Awards, the Company shall keep available at all times the number of shares of Common Stock required to satisfy such Stock Awards.

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(b) Securities Law Compliance. The Company shall seek to obtain from each regulatory commission or agency having jurisdiction over the Plan such authority as may be required to grant Stock Awards and to issue and sell shares of Common Stock upon exercise of the Stock Awards; provided, however, that this undertaking shall not require the Company to register under the Securities Act the Plan, any Stock Award or any stock issued or issuable pursuant to any such Stock Award. If, after reasonable efforts, the Company is unable to obtain from any such regulatory commission or agency the authority that counsel for the Company deems necessary for the lawful issuance and sale of stock under the Plan, the Company shall be relieved from any liability for failure to issue and sell stock upon exercise of such Stock Awards unless and until such authority is obtained.

9. USE OF PROCEEDS FROM STOCK.

Proceeds from the sale of stock pursuant to Stock Awards shall constitute general funds of the Company.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

- (a) Acceleration of Exercisability and Vesting. The Board shall have the power to accelerate the time at which a Stock Award may first be exercised or the time during which a Stock Award or any part thereof will vest in accordance with the Plan, notwithstanding the provisions in the Stock Award stating the time at which it may first be exercised or the time during which it will vest.
- **(b) Stockholder Rights**. No Participant shall be deemed to be the holder of, or to have any of the rights of a holder with respect to, any shares subject to such Stock Award unless and until such Participant has satisfied all requirements for exercise of the Stock Award pursuant to its terms.
- **(c) No Employment or other Service Rights.** Nothing in the Plan or any instrument executed or Stock Award granted pursuant thereto shall confer upon any Participant or other holder of Stock Awards any right to continue to serve the Company or an Affiliate in the capacity in effect at the time the Stock Award was granted or shall affect the right of the Company or an Affiliate to terminate (i) the employment of an Employee with or without notice and with or without cause or (ii) the service of a Consultant pursuant to the terms of such Consultant's agreement with the Company or an Affiliate.
- (d) Investment Assurances. The Company may require a Participant, as a condition of exercising or acquiring stock under any Stock Award, (i) to give written assurances satisfactory to the Company as to the Participant's knowledge and experience in financial and business matters and/or to employ a purchaser representative reasonably satisfactory to the Company who is knowledgeable and experienced in financial and business matters and that he or she is capable of evaluating, alone or together with the purchaser representative, the merits and risks of exercising the Stock Award; and (ii) to give written assurances satisfactory to the Company stating that the Participant is acquiring the stock subject to the Stock Award for the Participant's own account and not with any present intention of selling or otherwise distributing the stock. The foregoing requirements, and any assurances given pursuant to such requirements, shall be inoperative if (1) the issuance of the shares upon the exercise or acquisition of stock under the Stock Award has been registered under a then currently effective registration statement under the Securities Act or (2) as to any particular requirement, a determination is made by counsel for the Company that such requirement need not be met in the circumstances under the then applicable securities laws. The Company may, upon advice of counsel to the Company, place legends on stock certificates issued under the Plan as such counsel deems necessary or appropriate in order to comply with applicable securities laws, including, but not limited to, legends restricting the transfer of the stock.
- **(e) Withholding Obligations**. To the extent provided by the terms of a Stock Award Agreement, the Participant may satisfy any federal, state or local tax withholding obligation relating to the exercise

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or acquisition of stock under a Stock Award by any of the following means (in addition to the Company's right to withhold from any compensation paid to the Participant by the Company) or by a combination of such means: (i) tendering a cash payment; (ii) authorizing the Company to withhold shares from the shares of the Common Stock otherwise issuable to the Participant as a result of the exercise or acquisition of stock under the Stock Award, provided, however, that no shares of Common Stock are withheld with a value exceeding the minimum amount of tax required to be withheld by law; or (iii) delivering to the Company owned and unencumbered shares of the Common Stock.

11. ADJUSTMENTS UPON CHANGES IN STOCK.

(a) Capitalization Adjustments. If any change is made in the stock subject to the Plan, or subject to any Stock Award, without the receipt of consideration by the Company (through merger, consolidation, reorganization, recapitalization, reincorporation, stock dividend, dividend in property other than cash, stock split, liquidating dividend, combination of shares, exchange of shares, change in corporate structure or other transaction not involving the receipt of consideration by the Company), the Plan will be appropriately adjusted in the class(es) and maximum number of securities subject to the Plan pursuant to subsection 4(a), and the

outstanding Stock Awards will be appropriately adjusted in the class(es) and number of securities and price per share of stock subject to such outstanding Stock Awards. Such adjustments shall be made by the Board, the determination of which shall be final, binding and conclusive. (The conversion of any convertible securities of the Company shall not be treated as a transaction "without receipt of consideration" by the Company.)

- **(b) Dissolution or Liquidation**. In the event of a dissolution or liquidation of the Company, then such Stock Awards shall be terminated if not exercised (if applicable) prior to such event.
- (c) Corporate Transaction. In the event of (1) a sale, lease or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company, (2) a merger or consolidation in which the Company is not the surviving corporation or (3) a reverse merger in which the Company is the surviving corporation but the shares of Common Stock outstanding immediately preceding the merger are converted by virtue of the merger into other property, whether in the form of securities, cash or otherwise (a "Corporate Transaction"), then any surviving corporation or acquiring corporation shall assume any Stock Awards outstanding under the Plan or shall substitute similar stock awards (including an award to acquire the same consideration paid to the stockholders in the Corporate Transaction) for those outstanding under the Plan. In the event any surviving corporation or acquiring corporation refuses to assume such Stock Awards or to substitute similar stock awards for those outstanding under the Plan, then with respect to Stock Awards held by Participants whose Continuous Service has not terminated, the vesting of such Stock Awards (and, if applicable, the time during which such Stock Awards may be exercised) shall be accelerated in full, and the Stock Awards shall terminate if not exercised (if applicable) at or prior to such Corporate Transaction. With respect to any other Stock Awards outstanding under the Plan, such Stock Awards shall terminate if not exercised (if applicable) prior to such Corporate Transaction.
- (d) Securities Acquisition. In the event of an acquisition by any person, entity or group within the meaning of Section 13(d) or 14(d) of the Exchange Act, or any comparable successor provisions (excluding any employee benefit plan, or related trust, sponsored or maintained by the Company or an Affiliate) of the beneficial ownership (within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act, or comparable successor rule) of securities of the Company representing at least fifty percent (50%) of the combined voting power entitled to vote in the election of Directors and provided that such acquisition is not a result of, and does not constitute, a Corporate Transaction described in subsection 11(c) hereof, then with respect to Stock Awards held by Participants whose Continuous Service has not terminated, the vesting of such Stock Awards (and, if applicable, the time during which such Stock Awards may be exercised) shall be accelerated in full.

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12. AMENDMENT OF THE PLAN AND STOCK AWARDS.

- (a) Amendment of Plan. The Board at any time, and from time to time, may amend the Plan; provided however, that the rights under any Stock Award shall not be impaired by any amendment of the Plan unless (i) the Company requests the consent of the Participant and (ii) the Participant consents in writing.
- **(b) Amendment of Stock Awards**. The Board at any time, and from time to time, may amend the terms of any one or more Stock Awards; provided, however, that the rights under any Stock Award shall not be impaired by any such amendment unless (i) the Company requests the consent of the Participant and (ii) the Participant consents in writing.

13. TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PLAN.

- (a) Plan Term. The Board may suspend or terminate the Plan at any time. No Stock Awards may be granted under the Plan while the Plan is suspended or after it is terminated.
- **(b) No Impairment of Rights.** Rights and obligations under any Stock Award granted while the Plan is in effect shall not be impaired by suspension or termination of the Plan, except with the written consent of the Participant.

14. EFFECTIVE DATE OF PLAN.

The Plan shall become effective upon adoption by the Board.

15. CHOICE OF LAW.

The law of the State of Delaware shall govern all questions concerning the construction, validity and interpretation of this Plan, without regard to such state's conflict of laws rules.

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QuickLinks

Exhibit 99.1

INHALE THERAPEUTIC SYSTEMS, INC. 2000 NON-OFFICER EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN Adopted August 18, 1998 Amended February 23, 1999

Amended December 14, 1999 Amended and Restated June 6, 2000 Adjusted for 2-for-1 Stock Split on August 22, 2000 Amended August 22, 2000 Amended January 16, 2001 Amended June 28, 2001 Amended September 6, 2001 Stockholder Approval Not Required Termination Date: None