

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

**FORM 8-K**

CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of report (date of earliest event reported): June 20, 2008

**ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.**  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

0-32353  
(Commission File Number)

84-1475642  
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

**1180 Avenue of the Americas, 19th Floor**  
**New York, NY 10036**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

**(646) 214-0700**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

(b) On June 20, 2008, ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. issued a press release announcing that Brian Schwartz, M.D., Senior Vice President for Medical and Regulatory Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, resigned from the Company effective July 11, 2008 and that Jonathan Lewis, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, has assumed the responsibilities of Chief Medical Officer. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1, which is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits.

99.1 Press Release dated June 20, 2008.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.:  
(Registrant)

Date: June 20, 2008

By: /s/ Richard E. Bagley  
Name: Richard E. Bagley  
Title: President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief  
Financial Officer

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Exhibit Index

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release dated June 20, 2008.



## **ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.**

### **ZIOPHARM Announces Organizational Changes and New Appointments in Clinical and Regulatory**

**NEW YORK - June 20, 2008** - ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. (NASDAQ: ZIOP) announced today changes and new appointments in its clinical and regulatory groups together with the departure of Brian Schwartz, MD, Chief Medical Officer, who will be leaving the Company as of July 11<sup>th</sup> to pursue other opportunities. His responsibilities as CMO will be assumed by Jonathan Lewis, MD, PhD, Chief Executive Officer.

“As part of a new organizational structure, three physician drug program managers, will report to Dr. Lewis, each with responsibility for one of the Company’s three product candidates, palifosfamide (ZIO-201), indibulin (ZIO-301), and darinafarsin (ZIO-101).”

At the same time, the Company is pleased to announce promotions of the two key executives in its regulatory and clinical operations.

Robert Morgan, JD, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Quality has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Quality, and Clinical Development, reporting to Richard Bagley, President and COO. Mr. Morgan has extensive experience with all aspects of clinical development, having successfully filed five NDAs.

Janice Stevens, RN, Senior Director of Clinical Operations has been named Vice President, Clinical Operations, reporting to Mr. Bagley. Ms. Stevens was responsible for building the clinical organization at ZIOPHARM, and has 20 years of experience in clinical research and development programs at various institutions.

“We thank Brian for his many contributions to the Company and wish him well in his future endeavors,” said Dr. Lewis. “ZIOPHARM’s leadership team has put significant effort into designing clear, data-driven clinical development programs for our three product candidates, and we are very pleased that Bob and Jan will continue with our three physician program managers to move our clinical programs forward”.

#### **About ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.**

ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the development and commercialization of a diverse, risk-sensitive portfolio of in-licensed cancer drugs to address unmet medical needs. The Company applies new insights from molecular and cancer biology to understand the efficacy and safety limitations of approved and developmental cancer therapies and identifies proprietary and related molecules for better patient treatment. For more information, visit [www.ziopharm.com](http://www.ziopharm.com).

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**Forward-Looking Safe Harbor Statement:**

This press release contains forward-looking statements for ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. that involve risks and uncertainties that could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from the anticipated results and expectations expressed in these forward-looking statements. These statements are based on current expectations, forecasts and assumptions that are subject to risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual outcomes and results to differ materially from these statements. Among other things, there can be no assurance that any of the Company's development efforts relating to its product candidates will be successful, or such product candidates will be successfully commercialized. Other risks that affect forward-looking information contained in this press release include the possibility of being unable to obtain regulatory approval of the Company's product candidates, the risk that the results of clinical trials may not support the Company's claims, and risks related to the Company's ability to protect its intellectual property and its reliance on third parties to develop its product candidates. The Company assumes no obligation to update these forward-looking statements, except as required by law.

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