



ZIOPHARM Presents Data on Orally Active ZIO-201 at AACR

Company Expects to Initiate Clinical Trials in 2007

LOS ANGELES, Apr 16, 2007 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. (NASDAQ: ZIOP) announced today the presentation of preclinical data for an orally active form of ZIO-201 (isophosphoramidate mustard - IPM) at the American Association of Cancer Research meeting being held in Los Angeles. Data presented demonstrated oral availability of ZIO-201 and activity in a variety of cancer models, including those with ifosfamide (IFOS) and cyclophosphamide resistant tumors. An oral form of IPM, the primary therapeutic component of IFOS, without the toxic metabolites of IFOS, could extend the therapeutic utility of ZIO-201 well beyond that of IFOS.

"Ifosfamide has been tested as an oral drug but it is problematic at effective doses because of toxicity. Both an oral and IV form of ZIO-201 may offer clinicians an effective alternative to IFOS without the debilitating side effects associated with the other metabolites of IFOS," commented Barbara Wallner, Ph.D., Chief Technical Officer at ZIOPHARM.

About ZIO-201

ZIO-201, the active moiety of IFOS, is a bi-functional alkylator that causes irreparable inter-strand DNA cross-linking resulting in cell death. ZIO-201 is equal to or more active than IFOS in diverse cancer models. Unlike IFOS, which is a pro-drug, ZIO-201 is directly active against cancer cells. Also, unlike IFOS, ZIO-201 is not metabolized to acrolein or chloroacetaldehyde which cause bladder or central nervous system toxicities. ZIO-201 continues in a phase I trial in diverse cancers exploring maximum tolerated dose at alternate schedules. A phase II trial in advanced sarcoma continues to enroll patients. Trials in lymphoma and pediatric cancers are in the advanced planning stage. An oral form of ZIO-201 is in advanced preclinical development.

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.

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.

ZIOP-G

SOURCE: ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.

ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.

Investors

Suzanne McKenna, 646-214-0703

smckenna@ziopharm.com

or

Media

Tina Posterli, 917-322-2565
tposterli@rxir.com

Copyright Business Wire 2007

News Provided by COMTEX