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): **December 7, 2011**

ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Delaware	**001-33038**	**84-1475672**
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(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)

Not applicable
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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

o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425).

o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12).

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b)).

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c)).

Item 8.01 Other Events

On December 7, 2011, the Company issued a press release announcing that it has received an allowance from the European Patent Office for Patent Application No. 05 821 125.1, entitled “Salts of Isophosphoramide mustard and analogs thereof as anti-tumor agents” with claims directed to pharmaceutical compositions of a novel DNA cross-linker (stabilized active metabolite of ifosfamide), including palifosfamide (Zymafos® or ZIO-201) and their use in treating cancer.

A copy of the above referenced press release is filed as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report of Form 8-K.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release of the Company dated December 7, 2011

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.

By: /s/ Caesar Belbel

Date: December 7, 2011

Name: Caesar Belbel
Title: Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release of the Company dated December 7, 2011

Exhibit 99.1

ZIOPHARM Granted European Patent Allowance for Palifosfamide

--Additional Patent Issuance for Darinaparsin--

NEW YORK, NY – December 7, 2011 – ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. (Nasdaq: ZIOP) announced today that it has received an allowance from the European Patent Office for Patent Application No. 05 821 125.1, entitled "Salts of Isophosphoramide mustard and analogs thereof as anti-tumor agents" with claims directed to pharmaceutical compositions of a novel DNA cross-linker (stabilized active metabolite of ifosfamide), including palifosfamide (Zymafos® or ZIO-201) and their use in treating cancer. A counterpart patent in the United States was issued in March 2010, with rights extending to 2029. The patent estate covering palifosfamide compositions, methods of use and methods of manufacture now include issued patents in the United States, Australia, Europe, New Zealand and South Africa, as well as pending applications in the United States and various foreign jurisdictions.

Palifosfamide is currently being evaluated in an international, randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled Phase 3 trial in front-line metastatic soft tissue sarcoma referred to as the PICASSO 3 Study. Palifosfamide is also being evaluated in a Phase 1 study in combination with the standard of care for addressing small cell lung cancer, and in an oral form in preclinical studies. Orphan Drug Designation for the treatment of soft tissue sarcoma has been obtained for palifosfamide in both the United States and the European Union.

ZIOPHARM has also been granted Patent No. 2005274926 by the Australian Patent Office covering a crystalline form of darinaparsin (Zinapar® or ZIO-101), pharmaceutical compositions containing such compounds, and methods for their use in treating cancer. Darinaparsin is a novel mitochondrial- and hedgehog-targeted agent currently in a solid tumor Phase 1 study with oral administration. Orphan Drug Designation for the treatment of peripheral T-cell lymphoma has been obtained for darinaparsin in the United States and Europe.

"We greatly value a strong intellectual property estate," commented Caesar Belbel, Chief Legal Officer of ZIOPHARM. "Both this allowance and recent issuance are evidence of our continued execution of global development programs."

About ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.:

ZIOPHARM Oncology is a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the development and commercialization of a diverse portfolio of cancer therapeutics. The Company's small molecule programs include:

Palifosfamide (Zymafos® or ZIO-201) is a novel DNA cross-linker in class with bendamustine, ifosfamide, and cyclophosphamide and is currently in a randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled Phase 3 trial with palifosfamide administered intravenously for the treatment of metastatic soft tissue sarcoma in the front-line setting. The Company is also currently conducting a Phase 1 study of palifosfamide in combination with standard of care for addressing small cell lung cancer; an oral form of palifosfamide continues in preclinical study.

Darinaparsin (Zinapar® or ZIO-101) is a novel mitochondrial- and hedgehog-targeted agent (organic arsenic) currently in a solid tumor Phase 1 study with oral administration and has been developed intravenously for the treatment of relapsed peripheral T-cell lymphoma.

Indibulin (Zybulin™ or ZIO-301) is a novel, oral tubulin binding agent that is expected to have several potential benefits including oral dosing, application in multi-drug resistant tumors, no neuropathy and a quite tolerable toxicity profile. It is currently being studied in Phase 1/2 in metastatic breast cancer.

ZIOPHARM is also pursuing the development of novel DNA-based therapeutics in the field of cancer pursuant to a partnering arrangement with Intrexon Corporation. The partnership includes two existing clinical-stage product candidates, both of which are currently in Phase 1.
ZIOPHARM's principal operations are located in Boston, MA with an executive office in New York City and a small satellite office in Germantown, MD. Further information about ZIOPHARM may be found at www.ziopharm.com.

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Forward-Looking Safe Harbor Statement:

This press release contains certain forward-looking information about ZIOPHARM Oncology that is intended to be covered by the safe harbor for "forward-looking statements" provided by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts. Words such as "expect(s)," "feel(s)," "believe(s)," "will," "may," "anticipate(s)" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding our ability to successfully develop and commercialize our therapeutic products; our ability to expand our long-term business opportunities; financial projections and estimates and their underlying assumptions; and future performance. All of such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties, many of which are difficult to predict and generally beyond the control of the Company, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied or projected by, the forward-looking information and statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to: whether Palifosfamide, Darinaparsin, Indibulin, or any of our other therapeutic products will advance further in the clinical trials process and whether and when, if at all, they will receive final approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or equivalent foreign regulatory agencies and for which indications; whether Palifosfamide, Darinaparsin, Indibulin, and our other therapeutic products will be successfully marketed if approved; whether our DNA-based biotherapeutics discovery and development efforts will be successful; our ability to achieve the results contemplated by our collaboration agreements; the strength and enforceability of our intellectual property rights; competition from pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies; the development of and our ability to take advantage of the market for DNA-based biotherapeutics; our ability to raise additional capital to fund our operations on terms acceptable to us; general economic conditions; and the other risk factors contained in our periodic and interim SEC reports including but not limited to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2011, and our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements
that speak only as of the date hereof, and we do not undertake any obligation to revise and disseminate forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof, or to reflect the occurrence of or non-occurrence of any events.

Zymafos and Zinapar are registered trademarks of ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.

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