

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): January 13, 2007

**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, 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

On January 13, 2007, the Company entered into a one year agreement with Dr. Robert Peter Gale pursuant to which Dr. Gale will serve in a consulting capacity as Chief Scientific Advisor commencing January 15, 2007. Under this agreement, the Company will pay Dr. Gale \$100,000 for advisory services rendered and will pay the cost of COBRA continuation coverage for Dr. Gale during the one year term of the agreement. The Company will also reimburse Dr. Gale for travel expenses incurred in connection with his performance of these services.

Since January 15, 2004, Dr. Gale has been employed as Senior Vice President Research of the Company pursuant to an employment agreement with the Company that expired January 14, 2007.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits.

99.1 Press Release dated January 16, 2007.

**SIGNATURE**

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.

Date: January 16, 2007

**ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.:**  
(REGISTRANT)

By: /s/ Richard E. Bagley

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RICHARD E. BAGLEY, President, *Chief  
Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer*

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Exhibit Index

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release dated January 16, 2007

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**ZIOPHARM Announces Addition to Medical Advisory Board**

*--SVP of Research Transitions to Chief Scientific Advisor--*

**NEW YORK, NY - January 16, 2007** - ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. (NASDAQ: ZIOP) announced today that John F. Smyth, M.D., Professor of Medical Oncology, Cancer Research Centre, University of Edinburgh and President of the Federation of European Cancer Societies and ECCO 2007 has joined the Company's Medical Advisory Board (MAB). In addition, the Company announced that Robert P. Gale, M.D., Ph.D., will transition from his current role as Senior Vice President of Research for ZIOPHARM, to that of Chief Scientific Advisor. Dr. Gale will also remain on the Company's MAB.

Dr John F. Smyth has for the past 25 years served as Chair of Medical Oncology in the University of Edinburgh Medical School, where his major research interest is the development and evaluation of new anti-cancer drugs. He has published over 300 papers and is Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Cancer. He currently serves on the Expert Oncology Advisory Groups to the UK and European Drug Licensing Boards, and is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and London, and fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He is a former president of the European Society of Medical Oncology.

Dr. Lewis commented, "We are very pleased to welcome John Smyth to our Medical Advisory Board. John brings a strong European presence to ZIOPHARM which will be very important as we initiate our global clinical development strategy. Dr. Smyth is a world renowned cancer researcher whose drug development expertise will be invaluable to ZIOPHARM as we advance our pipeline of promising oncology products."

"Bob Gale, who is a world renowned hematologist, has been instrumental in establishing our current research programs, and we look forward to continuing to benefit from his input and vast expertise as our Chief Scientific Advisor and as a member of our Medical Advisory Board," concluded Dr. Lewis

**About ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.**

ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. 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).

**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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