



ZIOPHARM ZIO-101 Investigator Chairs Session at Gordon Research Conference at University of Oxford

New York, NY – July 11, 2006 - ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. (OTC BB: ZIOP) announced today that Lawrence Boise, Ph.D., University of Miami, a preclinical investigator for the Company's clinical candidate ZIO-101, served as the discussion leader at the 2006 Gordon Research Conference at the University of Oxford in the U.K. The meeting is focused on "Metals in Medicine" and is taking place from July 9-14, 2006. Dr. Boise chaired the session titled "Metals and Apoptosis: Therapeutic Implications" and will discuss his experience with ZIO-101, an organic arsenic, as part of a review on the clinical utility of arsenic compounds. The Gordon Research Conferences provide an international forum for the presentation and discussion of frontier research in the biological, chemical, and physical sciences, and their related technologies.

Dr. Boise presented preclinical results for ZIO-101 at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Clinical Research in Washington D.C. The data suggest that ZIO-101 kills myeloma cells and may be active in cancers where arsenic trioxide (an inorganic arsenic active in APL) is ineffective or too toxic. ZIO-101 is about to enter the phase II portion of the ongoing phase I/II study to treat patients with advanced myeloma.

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.

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