
**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): September 25, 2015

ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

001-33038
(Commission
File Number)

84-1475672
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

One First Avenue, Parris Building 34, Navy Yard Plaza
Boston, Massachusetts
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

02129
(Zip Code)

(617) 259-1970
(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:

- 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.

Election of New Director

Effective September 25, 2015, Scott Tarriff was appointed as a director to fill an existing vacancy on the Board of Directors, or the Board, of ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc., or the Company. Mr. Tarriff will serve as a director until the Company's 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until such time as his successor is duly elected and qualified, or until his earlier death, resignation or removal. Mr. Tarriff will serve as a member of the Board's Audit Committee and Compensation Committee. Following such appointment, the members of the Audit Committee will be Mr. James A. Cannon, who serves as the committee's Chairman, Dr. Michael Weiser, Senator Wyche Fowler, Jr. and Mr. Tarriff, and the members of the Compensation Committee will be Dr. Michael Weiser, who serves as the committee's Chairman, Dr. Murray Brennan and Mr. Tarriff.

As an independent director, Mr. Tarriff will be compensated for his service on the Board and committees of the Board in accordance with the Company's standard compensation arrangements for non-employee directors, which are described in greater detail in the Company's definitive proxy statement on Schedule 14A relating to its 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Commission, on April 30, 2015; provided, however, that for the 2015 calendar year Mr. Tarriff will receive 25% of the standard annual compensation arrangements in light of his partial year of service. In connection with his appointment, Mr. Tarriff was awarded 4,186 restricted shares of the Company's common stock, which shares shall vest in full on December 31, 2015.

In connection with his appointment, the Company entered into its standard form of indemnity agreement with Mr. Tarriff, the form of which was filed as Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on January 31, 2013. Mr. Tarriff was not selected as a director pursuant to any arrangements or understandings with the Company or with any other person, and there are no related party transactions between Mr. Tarriff and the Company that would require disclosure under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

On September 28, 2015, the Company issued a press release announcing the appointment of Mr. Tarriff to the Board. The press release is attached to this Current Report on Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press release dated September 28, 2015

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/ Kevin G. Lafond

Name: Kevin G. Lafond

Title: Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Treasurer

Date: September 28, 2015

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press release dated September 28, 2015



ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.

ZIOPHARM Appoints Scott Tarriff to Its Board of Directors

BOSTON, September 28, 2015 – ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. (Nasdaq: ZIOP), a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of new cancer immunotherapies, today announced the appointment of Scott Tarriff to the Company’s Board of Directors. Mr. Tarriff, who serves as President, Chief Executive Officer and a Director of Eagle Pharmaceuticals, brings more than 25 years of pharmaceutical industry experience to ZIOPHARM.

“Scott’s leadership experience extends from research and development to regulatory and commercial strategy, all of which will be invaluable to ZIOPHARM as its pipeline of leading-edge viro- and cell-based cancer immunotherapies expands,” said Sir Murray Brennan, M.D., Lead Director of ZIOPHARM. “We look forward to Scott’s contributions as a Director at this important stage of growth for the Company.”

Mr. Tarriff is the Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Eagle Pharmaceuticals, a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on developing and commercializing injectable products. Prior to joining Eagle, Mr. Tarriff held various executive positions at Par Pharmaceutical Companies, Inc. including serving as President and Chief Executive Officer from September 2003 to September 2006, after joining Par in 1998. Mr. Tarriff also served on Par’s Board of Directors from 2002 to September 2006. Prior to that, Mr. Tarriff held various positions with Bristol-Meyers Squibb, a publicly-traded biopharmaceutical company, including Senior Director of Marketing. Mr. Tarriff has served as a director of Synthetic Biologics, Inc., a publicly traded biotechnology company, since February 2012 and previously served on the Board of Directors of Clinical Data, Inc., a publicly-traded pharmaceutical company, from September 2009 to April 2011 when Clinical Data was acquired by Forest Laboratories, Inc. Mr. Tarriff holds a M.B.A. from Rider College and a B.S. in marketing from Pennsylvania State University.

About ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.:

ZIOPHARM Oncology is a Boston, Massachusetts-based biotechnology company employing novel gene expression, control and cell technologies to deliver safe, effective and scalable cell-based therapies for the treatment of cancer. The Company’s synthetic immuno-oncology programs, in collaboration with Intrexon Corporation (NYSE:XON) and the MD Anderson Cancer Center, include chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR-T) and other adoptive cell based approaches that use non-viral gene transfer methods for broad scalability. The Company is advancing programs in multiple stages of development together with Intrexon Corporation’s RheoSwitch Therapeutic System® (RTS®) technology, a switch to turn on and off, and precisely modulate, gene expression in order to improve therapeutic index. The Company’s pipeline includes a number of cell-based therapeutics in both clinical and preclinical testing which are focused on hematologic and solid tumor malignancies.

Forward-Looking Safe-Harbor Statement:

This press release contains certain forward-looking information about ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. 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, and in some cases can be identified by terms such as “may,” “will,” “could,” “expects,” “plans,” “anticipates,” and “believes.” These statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the progress, timing and results of preclinical and clinical trials involving the Company’s drug candidates, and the progress of the Company’s research and development programs. 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 by, the forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to: whether chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR T) approaches, Ad-RTS-IL-12, TCR and NK cell-based therapies, or any of our other therapeutic candidates will advance further in the pre-clinical or 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 chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR T) approaches, Ad-RTS-IL-12, TCR and NK cell-based therapies, and our other therapeutic products will be successfully marketed if approved; the strength and enforceability of our intellectual property rights; competition from other pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies; and the other risk factors contained in our periodic and interim SEC reports filed from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including but not limited to, our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, and our Quarterly Report on Form 10Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2015. 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.

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