ZIOPHARM Oncology Announces ZIO-102 Data Presented at AACR-NCI-EORTC International Conference

PHILADELPHIA, PA - November 18, 2005 - ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. (OTC BB: ZIOP) announced today that preclinical data for ZIO-102, an organic arsenic derivative, was presented at the AACR-NCI-EORTC International Conference on Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics in Philadelphia, PA. The abstract titled "Mechanisms of increased reactive oxygen species (ROS) generation induced by organic arsenic derivative dipropil-s-glycerol arsenic (ZIO-102)" was presented in a poster presentation. Xiaodong Cheng, of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and coworkers conducted the study.

As previously determined for the Company's lead clinical compound, ZIO-101, the results from this study indicate that in the tested leukemia cell line there are dose dependent mechanisms of intra-cellular ROS induction by ZIO-102. Intra-cellular ROS production can be initiated by either NADPH oxidase activity, or through disruption of mitochondrial functions, or both. This study showed that at low ZIO-102 concentrations, NADPH oxidase is targeted specifically to ROS production detectable at 14 hours of culture, whereas high concentrations of ZIO-102 induce a rapid increase of ROS production that is independent of NADPH oxidase activity, but requires disruption of mitochondrial functions. These findings of dose dependent responses to ZIO-102 (as well as to ZIO-101) present an opportunity to better design specific therapeutic regimens in the treatment of cancer.

ZIO-102 is a novel organic arsenic molecule currently in preclinical development. It is part of a "family" of novel organic arsenic compounds licensed to ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and Texas A&M University. ZIO-101 is the lead product candidate from the same licensing arrangement. It is currently in Phase I clinical trials. A Phase I/II trial and a Phase II trial for ZIO-101 in advanced myeloma are in the advanced planning stage and will likely be followed with exploratory Phase II trials in other cancers.

About ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc.

ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company seeking to acquire, develop and commercialize a diverse, risk-sensitive portfolio of in-licensed cancer drugs that address unmet medical needs. Currently, the Company is in U.S. Phase I studies for its two product candidates, ZIO-101 and ZIO-201. 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 the Company's 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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