ZIOPHARM Announces Appointment of Vice President for Regulatory Affairs

NEW YORK, NY - January 09, 2006 - ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. (OTC BB: ZIOP), announced today the appointment of Robert Morgan, MS, JD, as Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Quality, and Contract Counsel, reporting to Dick Bagley, President and Chief Operating Officer. He will be located in the Company's operational office in Charlestown, MA.

Mr. Morgan joins ZIOPHARM with over 20 years' experience in regulatory affairs, quality, clinical operations and medical research. Bob also holds a law degree which has been complementary in contracting for outsourced clinical trials. He was most recently Executive Director of Regulatory Affairs/Quality and Clinical Operations at EPIX Pharmaceuticals where he successfully compiled and submitted an electronic New Drug Application (NDA) for the company's first product candidate. Subsequently he filed the first electronic Investigational New Drug (IND) application accepted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the new international standard Common Technical Document format. Mr. Morgan has been responsible for the maintenance of corporate IND and NDA submission activities, the management of operating budgets for the regulatory affairs/quality and clinical operations functions and has held direct interaction with government agencies worldwide.

Mr. Morgan received a bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of Massachusetts, a master's degree in radiation biophysics from the University of Kansas, and a law degree from the Massachusetts School of Law. He has held positions in medical research including radiation oncology and has worked in the clinical/regulatory setting on diagnostics and therapeutics with DuPont, Genzyme, Parexcel, and Theseus Imaging before joining EPIX. He is also a member of the Massachusetts Bar.

"We are pleased to have Bob join us with his diverse background in medical research, regulatory affairs, quality, and clinical operations, as well as a law degree to strengthen our contracting efforts," commented Dick Bagley.

"Bob brings to ZIOPHARM the needed expertise and strategic insight to regulatory affairs and quality assurance from a diversity of products and will play a key role in the development of our lead products, ZIO-101 and ZIO-201," said Jonathan Lewis, M.D., Ph.D., chief executive officer."

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 in molecular and cancer biology to efficacious, but highly toxic therapies and re-engineers them to provide more effective and safer cancer therapy for patients. 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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