ZIOPHARM Oncology Announces ZIO-201 ASH Abstract Publication

NEW YORK, NY - November 21, 2005 - ZIOPHARM Oncology, Inc. (OTC BB: ZIOP) announced today the publication of an abstract on ZIO-201, a stabilized form of isophosphoramide mustard (IPM). The preclinical abstract is published and available online in Blood, the official journal of the American Society of Hematology.

In abstract 4727 titled "Isophosphoramide Mustard-lysine (ZIO-201): Active Moiety of Ifosfamide (IFOS) without Kidney Toxicity," by Mary Taub and coworkers at the State University of New York at Buffalo, data regarding effects on rabbit kidney proximal tubule cells report ZIO-201 avoids kidney damage caused by metabolites of ifosfamide, the pro-drug of ZIO-201.

ZIO-201 is currently in a Phase I clinical trial in advanced cancers. The study is currently at cohort 13; one subject has stable disease for more than 10 months. The maximum tolerated dose is not yet identified. Mesna?, which is used as an "uroprotective" agent with ifosfamide, does not need to be given with ZIO-201.

A Phase I/II study with ZIO-201 in people with advanced sarcoma was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Company expects to begin additional exploratory Phase II studies soon followed by a pivotal registration trial in the first half of 2007.

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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