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Tularik and Sankyo Expand GPCR Drug Discovery Collaboration

South San Francisco, Calif. – March 8, 2004 -- Tularik Inc. (Nasdaq: TLRK) today announced that Sankyo Company, Ltd. has expanded their collaboration to jointly discover and develop human therapeutics that act on G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs). Sankyo expanded the existing collaboration by selecting up to four GPCR targets for further research for one year, resulting in additional financial support to Tularik. In December 2003, Sankyo selected a separate GPCR target for further research under the collaboration for up to four years.

Under the terms of the collaboration, the parties will share equally all clinical development costs and profits in the U.S. and Europe of compounds resulting from the collaboration. Tularik is entitled to milestone and royalty payments as such compounds progress through clinical trials to registration outside of the U.S. and Europe. Other financial terms were not disclosed.

“The expansion of our collaboration with Sankyo reflects the important biological roles of the promising GPCR targets that we have discovered.” said Terry Rosen, Ph.D., Tularik’s Executive Vice President, Operations. “The success of our partnership with Sankyo has exceeded our expectations, and we look forward to continued progress in the future.”

About GPCRs

G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) are proteins that traverse the cell membrane seven times (also referred to as heptahelical receptors). These proteins regulate diverse biological functions including sight, taste and smell. Furthermore, GPCRs are involved in the regulation of inflammation, blood pressure, reproduction, digestion and appetite. Approximately one third of the top 100 drugs currently on the market act on GPCRs, including Claritin[®], Cozaar[®] and Singulair[®], which are the top three sellers targeting GPCRs. Drugs that target GPCRs generate more than \$65 billion annually.

(Source: MedAd News, May 2003)

About Sankyo

Sankyo Co., Ltd. is one of Japan's largest pharmaceutical companies with annual worldwide sales of \$5 billion and over 11,500 employees. Sankyo has a long history of discovering new classes of drugs, including the statin class of lipid-lowering drugs with its discovery of the first statin, mevastatin, and pravastatin, the second statin therapy to be marketed globally. In addition, Sankyo developed and launched the first glitazone, which revolutionized long-term control of type 2 diabetes. Sankyo is continuously working toward new discoveries especially in the field of Cardiovascular, Diabetes, Obesity, Bones and Joints, Immune system related disorders and allergies. For more information, please visit www.sankyo.co.jp.

About Tularik

Tularik is engaged in the discovery and development of a broad range of novel and superior orally available medicines that act through the regulation of gene expression. The Company's scientific platform is focused on three therapeutic areas: cancer, immunology and metabolic disease. Tularik is currently conducting a pivotal study of T67 for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and Phase 2 clinical trials of T607 for the treatment of gastric cancer and esophageal cancer. T487, for the treatment of psoriasis, and T131, for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, are in Phase 2 clinical trials. T487 for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis is moving into Phase 2 clinical trials. T71 for the treatment of obesity is in Phase 1 clinical trials. A corporate partner, Eli Lilly and Company, is conducting a Phase 2 clinical trial of an oral Factor Xa inhibitor for the prevention and treatment of thrombotic diseases. For more information, visit Tularik's Internet website at www.tularik.com.

This press release contains "forward-looking" statements. For this purpose, any statements contained in this press release that are not statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Words such as "believes," "anticipates," "plans," "expects," "will," "intends" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. There are a number of important factors that could cause the results of Tularik to differ materially from those indicated by these forward-looking statements, including, among others, risks detailed from time to time in Tularik's SEC reports, including the report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2003 and the report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003. Tularik does not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking statements.