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Tularik Moving Forward with T67 Pivotal Trial Program in Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma

South San Francisco, Calif. – August 26, 2002 -- Tularik Inc. (Nasdaq: TLRK) today announced that it has received a written response from the FDA that the study design for its pivotal trial program for T67, Tularik's lead anti-cancer drug for patients suffering from Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC), is satisfactory. As a result of the FDA's feedback, the End-of-Phase 2 meeting scheduled for today to discuss T67 was not necessary.

This pivotal Phase 2/3 study is expected to include approximately 750 1st line HCC patients and will be performed at numerous centers across the U.S., Europe and Asia. The planned study design will compare survival in patients who receive T67 at a dose of 250mg/m² given by intravenous infusion every week to doxorubicin at a dose of 60mg/m² given by intravenous infusion every three weeks. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of T67 in patients with HCC. Tularik expects to open this trial early next year.

David V. Goeddel, Ph.D., CEO of Tularik said, "We are very excited to be moving T67 forward and are optimistic that T67 will ultimately benefit patients suffering from HCC. T67 was discovered by Tularik scientists, so it is especially gratifying to see it move forward. We believe today's news brings us closer to achieving our vision of becoming a premier biopharmaceutical company."

"This announcement marks a significant milestone in our development program for T67," added Dr. Michael D. Levy, VP of Development and Chief Medical Officer at Tularik. "With an average survival rate of 6 months from time of diagnosis and no approved systemic chemotherapy available, HCC patients are in real need of a drug that can potentially prolong their lives. We are eager to get our pivotal trial program underway and move one step closer to getting T67 approved for these severely ill patients."

In May, Tularik disclosed data from Phase 2 human clinical trials using T67 at a dose of 165mg/m² administered intravenously every week to patients with HCC. The low incidence of adverse events and hematologic toxicity in that Phase 2 study, together with a related pharmacokinetic analysis, supports conducting the planned pivotal trial using a dose of 250mg/m² given by intravenous infusion every week.

About T67

Tularik's lead drug candidate, T67, binds irreversibly to β -tubulin, which distinguishes it from other tubulin-binding agents. β -tubulin is a cellular building block of microtubules and is essential to cell division. With over 260 patients dosed to date, T67 has shown objective partial responses (greater than 50% reduction in tumor size) in patients with HCC and an acceptable toxicity profile. Tularik retains 100% worldwide rights to T67.

About Hepatocellular Carcinoma

HCC is a tumor type that is on the rise in the United States, principally in relation to increases in Hepatitis C infection rates. Worldwide, there are over 1 million new cases of HCC annually and it is the 3rd most common cause of cancer death. In the US, it is estimated that more than 20,000 people will be diagnosed with HCC annually. HCC is an aggressive malignancy: the six month survival rate from time of diagnosis is 50 %, the one year survival rate is 24 % and the five year survival rate is less than 5 %.

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. Tularik's scientific platform spans seven disease-based programs focused on three areas: cancer, immunology and metabolic disease. 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 June 30, 2002.