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Tularik Promotes Chris H. Smith to Vice President, Human Resources

South San Francisco, Calif., March 1, 2002 -- Tularik Inc. (Nasdaq: TLRK) today announced the promotion of Chris H. Smith from Director, Human Resources to Vice President, Human Resources. In his new position, Mr. Smith will continue to oversee all human resource functions at Tularik, including staffing, compensation and benefits, employee relations, organizational development and training.

“Chris has proven to be an integral part of Tularik’s management team and a key contributor to the growth of our Company,” stated William J. Rieflin, Executive Vice President, Administration. “Tularik’s greatest asset is its human capital, and we rely on Chris and his group to ensure that we have capable, diverse and committed employees as we move our drug candidates forward and prepare for the commercialization and marketing of products.”

Mr. Smith joined Tularik as Director, Human Resources in 1996. Since that time, the number of employees at Tularik has nearly quadrupled, to 394 employees. Prior to joining Tularik, Mr. Smith worked for 15 years at ESL, Inc., which was acquired by TRW Inc. While at ESL, Mr. Smith served in various roles of progressing responsibility leading up to his last position as Human Resources Director. He received his BS degree in Business Economics from the University of Western Australia.

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. To date, the Company has created a robust pipeline of drug candidates 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 September 30, 2001.