



Contacts: Tularik Inc.  
Pieter B.M.W.M. Timmermans, Ph.D.  
650-825-7000

Burns McClellan, Inc.  
Juling Chao (Media)  
415-352-6262  
John Nugent (Investors)  
212-213-0006

**For Immediate Release**

**Tularik Announces the Initiation of a Phase I Study for  
Anti-Cytomegalovirus Compound**

**South San Francisco, CA – August 14, 2000** – Tularik Inc. (Nasdaq: TLRK) today announced the initiation of a phase I study in the United Kingdom for its oral anti-cytomegalovirus (CMV) drug candidate, T902611 (T611). Preclinical studies demonstrated that T611 is a selective inhibitor of a viral enzyme required for CMV replication. Current therapies approved for the treatment of CMV can be limited by significant side effects and/or the development of viral resistance. Additionally, most of these therapies require administration by intravenous infusion. These features limit the utility of the current drugs in preventative therapy for patients at high risk, such as patients receiving bone marrow transplants, AIDS patients and congenitally infected infants.

“In preclinical studies, T611 demonstrated potential advantages in terms of potency, oral bioavailability and toxicity,” stated Pieter B.M.W.M. Timmermans, Ph.D., Vice President, Pharmacology and Preclinical Development at Tularik. “The discovery and development of T611 highlights the strength of the Tularik drug discovery engine and underscores our commitment to address significant unmet medical needs.”

CMV is a ubiquitous virus that infects most of the world’s population. The virus causes serious infection for patients with compromised or immature immune systems. In the bone marrow and solid organ transplant population, CMV can cause life-threatening pneumonia. In the AIDS patient population, retinitis caused by CMV is the primary cause of blindness. Additionally, CMV infection in newborns can cause death or severe neurological damage, typically deafness.

-more-

Tularik is engaged in the discovery and development of a broad range of novel and superior orally available drugs based on gene regulation. Tularik programs address cancer, CMV, diabetes, obesity, inflammation, immune disorders, lipid disorders and bacterial diseases, and a class of targets known as orphan nuclear receptors. Tularik has established strategic partnerships with Japan Tobacco Inc., Roche Bioscience and Knoll AG. For additional information, visit Tularik's Internet website at [www.tularik.com](http://www.tularik.com).

*Statements in this press release that are not strictly historical are "forward-looking" statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. There can be no assurance that Tularik will obtain necessary regulatory approvals for its drug candidates or be able to develop a commercially viable pharmaceutical product. These and other risks are more fully discussed in Tularik's SEC reports, including the report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2000*

###