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Tularik Announces Abstracts For 2 Anti-Cancer Drugs at ASCO

South San Francisco, Calif. –(BW HealthWire) – May 11, 2001-- Tularik Inc. (Nasdaq:TLRK) today announced that abstracts containing Phase 1 clinical trial results for its two novel anti-tubulin cancer drugs, T67 and T607, will be presented at the 37th annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncologists (ASCO) in San Francisco on May 11-14.

T67 and T607 work by binding to B-tubulin, which is essential for cell division. Anti-tubulin agents are a well established class of cancer therapy compounds. In fact, the most commonly used anti-cancer drug is Taxol(R) (paclitaxel), an anti-tubulin agent, with annual sales in excess of \$1.5 billion. However, one shortcoming of Taxol and other currently used anti-tubulin agents is that they become susceptible to multi-drug resistance. T67 and T607 are distinguished from other tubulin-binding agents in that they bind irreversibly to tubulin and, as a result, have shown efficacy against multi-drug resistant tumors in pre-clinical testing. T67 is also distinguished from other anti-tubulin drugs by its ability to cross the blood-brain barrier, making it potentially useful in the treatment of glioma (brain cancer).

Tularik is currently conducting five separate Phase 2 clinical trials for T67 in non-small cell lung cancer, breast cancer, and colorectal cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer) and glioma. In one Phase 1 trial, clinicians have observed a partial response in a patient with liver cancer that was maintained for more than a year. Hepatocellular carcinoma is one of the most common causes of cancer death worldwide and is a particularly aggressive form of cancer with poor patient survival. Abstract numbers 438 and 443 will detail Phase 1 trial data on T67.

T607, Tularik's second novel anti-tubulin cancer drug, is a structural analog of T67, and also binds irreversibly to B-tubulin. T607 has a different tissue distribution profile than T67 and does not cross the blood-brain barrier. A partial response in a patient with liver cancer was also observed with T607 suggesting that Tularik's novel anti-tubulin agents may have particular benefit for the treatment of liver cancer. T607 is currently undergoing Phase I dose-escalation studies in the U.S., the U.K. and Canada. Abstract number 442 will detail information on T607 Phase 1 studies.

Tularik is engaged in the discovery and development of a broad range of novel and superior orally available drugs that act through the regulation of gene expression. Tularik programs address cancer, viral diseases, inflammation, immune disorders, lipid disorders, diabetes, bacterial diseases and obesity. Tularik has established strategic partnerships with Japan Tobacco Inc., Roche Bioscience and Knoll AG. 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", "intend", "suggesting", "potentially" 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 its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000.