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Tularik Receives FDA Fast Track Designation for T67

South San Francisco, Calif. – (BW HealthWire) – Oct. 22, 2003 – Tularik Inc. (Nasdaq:TLRK) today announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has granted Fast Track designation for T67 for first line therapy in patients with unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). In its designation, the FDA acknowledges HCC as a serious, often life-threatening condition for which no approved systemic chemotherapeutic agents exist.

"This Fast Track designation from the FDA is an important confirmation of the substantial unmet medical need of patients suffering from HCC," said Michael Levy, M.D., Vice President of Development and Chief Medical Officer. "We are pleased to be working closely with the FDA under the Fast Track program to accelerate T67's entry into the market."

The FDA Fast Track program, codified under the FDA Modernization Act of 1997, is designed to facilitate the development and expedite the review of new drugs that are intended to treat serious or life-threatening conditions, and that demonstrate the potential to address unmet medical needs. The program emphasizes the critical nature of close, early communication between the FDA and sponsors to improve the efficiency of product development. Tularik has previously agreed with the FDA on the design of the ongoing pivotal trial of T67 under the FDA's special protocol assessment program.

About T67

T67 is a small molecule drug candidate that binds irreversibly to beta-tubulin, which distinguishes it from other tubulin-binding agents. Interfering with beta-tubulin function induces programmed cell death, or apoptosis, in cancer cells. With over 260 patients dosed in Phase 1 and Phase 2 studies, T67 has been well tolerated and has shown activity in patients with HCC. Tularik retains 100% worldwide rights to T67.

About Hepatocellular Carcinoma

HCC is a tumor type that is on the rise in the U.S., principally in relation to increases in Hepatitis B and 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 U.S., it is estimated that more than 17,000 people are 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 is focused on three therapeutic areas: cancer, immunology and metabolic disease. The Company currently has four drug candidates in clinical trials. In the cancer area, Tularik is currently conducting a pivotal study of T67 for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and Phase 2 trials with T607 for the treatment of HCC, ovarian cancer, gastric cancer and esophageal cancer. T487, for the treatment of inflammatory diseases, and T131, for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, are moving into Phase 2 trials. 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, 2003 and the report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002. Tularik does not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking statements.