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## **Tularik Begins Phase 1 Clinical Trial of T131, a Novel Insulin-sensitizer for the Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes**

South San Francisco, Calif. – January 27, 2003 -- Tularik Inc. (Nasdaq: TLRK) has begun Phase 1 clinical testing to evaluate the safety and pharmacokinetic profile of T131, a drug candidate to treat type 2 diabetes. T131 activates PPAR $\gamma$  (peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma), a target involved in the body's ability to respond to insulin. The randomized, double-blinded, dose-escalation trial is being conducted in healthy adult volunteers in the United Kingdom.

Current drugs that activate PPAR $\gamma$  including Actos<sup>®</sup> and Avandia<sup>®</sup>, had combined sales in 2001 of \$1.5 billion. T131 has a novel chemical structure and interacts with PPAR $\gamma$  differently from currently approved drugs. Animal studies comparing T131 to Avandia demonstrates that T131 has superior potency, equal efficacy and an excellent safety profile. T131 does not cause cardiac hypertrophy or a decrease in hematocrit, and causes much less weight gain than Avandia in animal models.

“Type 2 diabetics are prone to both obesity and cardiac disease, so we believe that T131 may provide a significant benefit to those patients,” said Pieter Timmermans, Ph.D., Vice President, Pharmacology and Preclinical Development. “Our scientists have made huge advances in the understanding of how PPAR $\gamma$  affects human biology. I am proud that we have been able to translate this knowledge into the discovery of this exciting drug candidate.”

According to the American Diabetes Association, nearly 17 million Americans have diabetes. Diabetes develops when the body can not effectively control the level of sugar (glucose) in the blood. When diet and exercise are not effective in controlling blood sugar levels in people with type 2 diabetes, oral medication(s), insulin injections or a combination are needed. According to Deutsche Bank estimates, the market for oral anti-diabetic drugs is expected to grow from over \$5 billion in 2001 to \$11.5 billion in 2005.

### **Tularik Inc. to Present at the US Bancorp Piper Jaffray Health Care Conference**

Andrew Perlman, M.D., Ph.D., Executive Vice President, will present at the US Bancorp Piper Jaffray Health Care Conference on Thursday, January 30, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. EST at The Pierre Hotel in New York City.

The presentation will be webcast and may be accessed at the Company's website, [www.tularik.com](http://www.tularik.com), under the Investors/Media tab. In addition, an archived version of the webcast will be available on the Company's website for five days.

### **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 drugs in clinical trials. T67 is moving into a pivotal Phase 2/3 study for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and T607 is in four Phase 2 trials for the treatment of HCC, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, ovarian cancer and gastric/esophageal cancer. T487, for the treatment of inflammatory diseases, and T131, for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, are in Phase 1 trials to evaluate safety. For more information, visit Tularik's Internet website at [www.tularik.com](http://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, 2002 and the report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001. Tularik does not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking statements.*