



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CYPRESS BIOSCIENCE AND UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE SPONSOR SYMPOSIUM AT AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
RHEUMATOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING**
**Symposia Entitled “The Emerging Role of Protein A Immunoabsorption in
Rheumatoid Arthritis”**

BOSTON, MA, November 15, 1999 – Cypress Bioscience, Inc. (Nasdaq: CYPB) and the University of Washington School of Medicine, Department of Continuing Medical Education, announced sponsorship of a half-day symposium on Wednesday, November 17, 1999 following the 63rd Annual Conference of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) in Boston, Massachusetts. The ACR’s Annual Scientific Meeting takes place from November 13th to 17th 1999 and attracts more than 8,000 rheumatologists and related health professionals from around the world. The goals of the ACR meeting include providing rheumatologists, scientists and clinicians with updated knowledge on recent advances in the diagnosis, management and treatment of rheumatic diseases.

Entitled “The Emerging Role of Protein A Immunoabsorption in Rheumatoid Arthritis,” the symposium will feature presentations by clinicians and patients on one of the most recent developments in the field of rheumatology, Cypress Bioscience’s PROSORBA® column. The PROSORBA column is the first non-drug treatment approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the therapeutic reduction of the signs and symptoms of moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in adult patients with long standing disease who have failed or are intolerant to disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs).

At the conclusion of this session, which will be held at the Hynes Convention Center, Room 100, from 12:30 PM – 4:05 PM, attendees will be able to:

- Understand the historical use of plasmapheresis and protein A immunoabsorption in the treatment of RA;
- Understand the pivotal study of protein A immunoabsorption in moderate to severe RA patients and to examine both trial design and clinical data;
- Identify how the treatment delivery and trial design of a medical device differ from those for a drug;

- Understand the burden of illness in moderate to severe RA patients who are not adequately responding to treatment;
- Understand the impact of disease state on ACR response rate;
- Gain insight into the perspective of patients with treatment resistant RA on various treatment options and patient expectations.

In addition to this symposium, Cypress activities as part of the ACR conference included:

- A presentation on the PROSORBA column by Dr. Daniel E. Furst of the Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, WA during the “Clinical Review of New Rheumatoid Arthritis Therapeutics” session.
- Dr. Lee Simon of the Beth Israel Medical Center in Boston, MA discussed “New Arthritis Medications,” including the PROSORBA column.

Additionally, Cypress will have an exhibit booth at the conference where attendees may inquire about registration for the symposia as well as receive more information about the PROSORBA column.

About Cypress Bioscience, Inc.

Cypress Bioscience, Inc. develops and markets medical devices and therapeutics for the treatment of certain types of immune disorders and is engaged in the development of novel therapeutic agents for the treatment of blood platelet disorders. In March 1999, the company entered into an agreement that granted Fresenius AG and Fresenius Hemotechnology Inc. an exclusive license to manufacture and distribute the PROSORBA column in the U.S., Europe and certain other territories.

In April 1999, Cypress launched the sale of the PROSORBA column for the treatment of moderate to severe RA in adult patients. The PROSORBA column was previously approved by the FDA in 1987 for use in Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), an immune bleeding disorder. In addition, Cypress is developing Cyplex™ (Infusible Platelet Membranes), which is positioned to become an alternative for traditional platelet infusions. For more information about the PROSORBA column and Cypress, please visit the company’s Web site at www.cypressbio.com.

About The American College of Rheumatology

The American College of Rheumatology is the professional organization of rheumatologists and associated health professionals who share a dedication to healing, preventing disability, and curing the more than 100 types of arthritis and related disabling and sometimes fatal disorders of the joints, muscles, and bones.

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Except for historical information contained herein, this news release contains forward-looking statements regarding Cypress Bioscience, Inc. that involve risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to the

Company's and Fresenius' ability to market successfully the PROSORBA column for use as a treatment for RA; whether the Company will be successful in collaborating with Fresenius; and the Company's ability to develop and receive regulatory approval for Cyplex™ on a timely basis, if at all, as well as other risks detailed from time to time in the company's SEC reports, including its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998 and its most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.