



## **CYPRESS BIOSCIENCE INC. (NASDAQ: CYPB) TO PRESENT AT THE SG COWEN 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE**

San Diego, California, March 8, 2004 – **Cypress Bioscience Inc.** (Nasdaq: CYPB) today announced that Jay D. Kranzler, MD, PhD, its Chairman & CEO, will present an update on the Company's progress at the SG Cowen 24th Annual Healthcare Conference. Cypress' presentation to attendees at the Conference is expected to begin at approximately 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, March 9, 2004. The conference will be held at The Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel, Boston, MA.

Investors, analysts and the general public are invited to listen to a live audio broadcast of this presentation over the Internet. The broadcast can be accessed at [http://www.corporate-ir.net/ireye/confLobby.zhtml?ticker=CYPB&item\\_id=851443](http://www.corporate-ir.net/ireye/confLobby.zhtml?ticker=CYPB&item_id=851443).

A replay of the presentation will be available at the same web address.

Earlier this year Cypress Bioscience, Inc. (NASDAQ: CYPB) and Forest Laboratories, Inc. (NYSE: [FRX](#)) announced that they entered into a collaboration agreement for the development and marketing for Cypress' product, milnacipran, licensed from the product's originator, Pierre Fabre Médicament, for indications in the United States market. Milnacipran is currently being evaluated in a Phase III program that was commenced in October 2003 for the treatment of Fibromyalgia Syndrome (FMS). Fibromyalgia is a frequent cause of chronic, widespread pain, and there are currently no products approved for the treatment of FMS.

### **About Milnacipran**

Milnacipran is a novel compound which exerts its effect by inhibiting the reuptake of both norepinephrine and serotonin, two neurotransmitters known to play an essential role in regulating pain and mood. It has been approved for the treatment of non-pain indications in 22 countries and has been used safely by more than 2 million patients during more than six years of commercial availability outside the U.S.

### **About Fibromyalgia**

Fibromyalgia is considered one of a group of related chronic pain syndromes characterized by both physical and psychiatric symptoms that include conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), chronic tension headache, non-cardiac chest pain, and certain types of lower back pain. The use of milnacipran in these other chronic pain syndromes may also be explored under the agreement with Forest. FMS is estimated to affect six to twelve million people in the United States. FMS is most often diagnosed in the primary care setting and in addition is the second most commonly diagnosed condition in rheumatology clinics in the United States after osteoarthritis.

For more information about FMS, please visit [www.FMSresource.com](http://www.FMSresource.com).

### **About Cypress Bioscience, Inc.**

Cypress is committed to be the innovator and commercial leader in providing products for the treatment of patients with Functional Somatic Syndromes, such as FMS, and other related chronic pain and central nervous system disorders. In August 2001, Cypress licensed from Pierre Fabre Medicament its first product for clinical development, milnacipran. The license agreement provides Cypress with an exclusive license to develop and sell any products with the compound milnacipran as an active ingredient for any indication in the United States and Canada. On January 9, 2004, Cypress entered into a collaboration agreement with Forest Laboratories for the development and marketing of milnacipran. In October 2003,

Cypress began initiating its Phase III clinical trials for the use of milnacipran as a potential treatment for FMS. We are continuing to evaluate various potential strategic transactions, including the potential acquisition of products, technologies and companies, and other alternatives that we believe may enhance stockholder value.

For more information about Cypress, please visit the Company's web site at [www.cypressbio.com](http://www.cypressbio.com).

*This press release, as well as Cypress' SEC filings and web site at <http://www.cypressbio.com>, contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 including statements about the potential of milnacipran to treat FMS and other related Functional Somatic Syndromes and entering into a strategic transaction. Actual results could vary materially from those described as a result of a number of factors, including those set forth in Cypress Annual Report on Form 10-K, the most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and any subsequent SEC filings. In addition, there is the risk that we and Forest Laboratories may not be able to successfully develop or market milnacipran or any other products for the treatment of FMS and other related Functional Somatic Syndromes, and, as a result, would not receive any milestone or royalty payments from Forest Laboratories; that we and Forest Laboratories may encounter regulatory or other difficulties in the development of milnacipran for FMS, including delays in completing Phase III trials; that we may not be able to protect our patents or proprietary technology; that milnacipran may not significantly improve the treatment of FMS or any other related Functional Somatic Syndrome; that we may not be successful in identifying, licensing and developing any additional products, technologies or companies and even if we complete any such transaction, it may not enhance stockholder value.. Cypress undertakes no obligation to revise or update these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this press release, except as required by law.*

**For additional information please contact**

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