



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CYPRESS BIOSCIENCE, INC. ADDED TO NASDAQ BIOTECHNOLOGY INDEX

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA – May 18, 2004 – Cypress Bioscience, Inc. (NASDAQ:CYPB) today announced that the Company will be added to the NASDAQ Biotechnology Index (NASDAQ:[NBI](#)), effective Monday, May 24, 2004. All securities on the NASDAQ Biotechnology Index are listed on the NASDAQ National Market and meet minimum requirements, including market value, average daily share volume, and seasoning as a public company.

The NASDAQ Biotechnology Index contains companies that are classified according to the FTSETM Global Classification System as either biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies. The NASDAQ Biotechnology Index is calculated under a modified capitalization-weighted methodology. The Index is ranked on a semi-annual basis in May and November of each year. For more information about the NASDAQ Biotechnology Index, including eligibility criteria, visit www.nasdaq.com.

About Cypress Bioscience, Inc.

Cypress is committed to being the innovator and leader in providing products for the treatment of patients with Functional Somatic Syndromes 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 initiated 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. For more information about FMS, please visit www.FMSresource.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. 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, 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 beginning or 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; 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.