



Cypress Completes Enrollment of Phase III Milnacipran Clinical Trial Results Expected Fall 2005

SAN DIEGO – December 8, 2004 - Cypress Bioscience, Inc. (NASDAQ: CYPB) today announced that it has completed enrollment in its first Phase III pivotal trial to evaluate milnacipran as a treatment for fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS). The Company expects to announce the initial results of the study in the fall of 2005.

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. Forest Laboratories is conducting the second Phase III pivotal trial for milnacipran, with the assistance of Cypress. The second pivotal trial was launched in October 2004. As is generally required by the FDA, two positive pivotal trials are required for an NDA approval of milnacipran for the treatment of FMS. Assuming positive results in both pivotal trials currently underway, the Phase III program could be completed in 2006.

About Milnacipran

Milnacipran is a novel compound that exerts its effect by inhibiting the reuptake of norepinephrine, known to play an essential role in regulating pain, and other neurotransmitters, including serotonin and NMDA. It has been approved for the treatment of non-pain indications in 32 countries and has been used safely by more than 3 million patients during more than six years of commercial availability outside the U.S.

About Fibromyalgia

FMS 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. 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.

About Cypress Bioscience, Inc.

Cypress is committed to be the innovator and leader in providing products that improve the treatment of Functional Somatic Syndromes, including Fibromyalgia Syndrome (FMS), and other related Pain and Central Nervous System conditions. Cypress' strategy involves acquiring/in-licensing undervalued central nervous system active compounds and developing them for new indications.

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 commenced its first Phase III clinical trial for the use of milnacipran as a potential treatment for FMS. The second Phase III trial evaluating milnacipran as a treatment for FMS commenced in October 2004. We are continuing to evaluate various potential strategic transactions, including the potential acquisition of products 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.

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 the two ongoing 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 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.

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