



Sonus Pharmaceuticals Announces Appointment Of Chief Science And Technology Officer

BOTHELL, Washington, July 9, 2001-Sonus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq:SNUS) announced today the appointment of Dr. Nagesh Palepu as senior vice president and chief science and technology officer. In this new role, Dr. Palepu will be responsible for the direction and management of all scientific, technology and product development strategies at Sonus. He will report to Michael A. Martino, the Company's president and chief executive officer.

"I am pleased to be joining Sonus at an exciting time. The Company's TOCOSOL(TM) drug delivery technology platform and product pipeline appear to hold significant clinical and commercialization potential. I look forward to being an integral part of the team that builds Sonus into a recognized leader in the drug delivery arena and realizes the full value of the Company's current and future products," said Dr. Palepu.

"Dr. Palepu's capabilities and accomplishments in lipid-based drug delivery systems can greatly enhance our ability to identify and ultimately bring new products to market. We are excited about the potential of our drug delivery platform and look forward to the initiatives and contributions of Dr. Palepu, who is a recognized leader in the evaluation of novel technologies and development of specialty pharmaceutical products," said Michael A. Martino, president and chief executive officer.

Dr. Palepu brings to Sonus nearly 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Prior to joining the Company, he held several increasingly senior positions directing research and development at leading pharmaceutical companies, including Geneva Pharmaceuticals, a division of Novartis; SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals and Bristol-Myers. Dr. Palepu has co-authored several publications on various subjects pertaining to drug delivery technologies, invented/co-invented over 20 formulation/process patents and was responsible for the development of several therapeutic compounds from the discovery stage to market approval.

Sonus Pharmaceuticals, Inc., located near Seattle, Washington, is engaged in the research and development of therapeutic drug delivery products based on its proprietary emulsion formulation technology. The Company's lead product is S-8184, a new formulation of paclitaxel for cancer therapy, currently in a Phase 1 clinical study. In preclinical development, Sonus is also developing S-2646, a reformulation of a cardiac drug for the treatment of rapid, life-threatening heart rhythms; and S-9156, a synthetic blood substitute product.

The Company's news releases and other corporate information are available on its web site at www.sonuspharma.com.

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Certain of the statements made in this press release are forward-looking such as those, among others, relating to the development of drug delivery and oxygen delivery products and potential applications for these products. As discussed in the Sonus annual report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 7, 2001, actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements as a result of the following factors, among others: the Company's products will require extensive clinical testing and approval by regulatory authorities; such approvals are lengthy and expensive and may never occur, and may be subject to certain other regulatory requirements; there can be no assurance that Sonus will be successful in its efforts to develop drug delivery and oxygen delivery products; there can be no assurance that Phase 1 studies for S-8184 will be successful or that increased efficacy will result from the Company's emulsion-based formulation; there can be no assurance that Sonus will complete preclinical trials with S-2646 and S-9156; the Company's results from operations have varied and will continue to vary from quarter to quarter and will depend upon, among other factors, timing and cost of clinical trials planned by Sonus and receipt of collaborative partner payments, if any; there can be no assurance that the Company will receive any future collaborative partner payments or that its cash requirements will be met by any such payments; and Sonus intends to seek external financing through available means, which may include debt and/or equity financing or the licensing or sale of proprietary or marketing rights, and there can be no assurance that financing will be available on acceptable terms, if at all.