



March 27, 2017

## **ZiOPHARM Appoints Amy Trevvett Vice President of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications**

### **Company to Host Quarterly Conference Calls**

BOSTON, March 27, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- ZiOPHARM Oncology, Inc. (Nasdaq:ZiOP), a biopharmaceutical company focused on new immunotherapies, today announced the appointment of Amy Trevvett as Vice President of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications.

"Amy's background in investor relations and corporate communications in the life sciences industry is an ideal fit for ZiOPHARM, and we look forward to her contributions as a member of our leadership team," said Caesar J. Belbel, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Legal Officer of ZiOPHARM. "As part of our focus on communications with our shareholders and the investment community, we will be hosting quarterly conference calls beginning this May, in conjunction with our first quarter 2017 earnings report. We look forward to sharing our progress throughout this year and beyond, as our multiple immunotherapy platforms continue to move forward into and through clinical development."

Ms. Trevvett brings to ZiOPHARM more than 15 years of experience in a range of investor relations and corporate communications roles at publicly traded biotechnology and medical device companies. Most recently, she served as Director of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications at HeartWare International, Inc., a leading innovator of less-invasive, miniaturized circulatory support technologies for advanced heart failure, which was acquired by Medtronic plc. Prior to HeartWare, Ms. Trevvett served in communications and investor relations roles at both Alkermes, Inc., a global biopharmaceutical company developing innovative medicines for the treatment of central nervous system (CNS) diseases, and Sepracor, Inc. (now Sunovion Pharmaceuticals), a leader in CNS and respiratory therapies. She holds a bachelor of arts from Dickinson College.

### **About ZiOPHARM Oncology, Inc.:**

ZiOPHARM Oncology is a Boston, Massachusetts-based biotechnology company employing novel gene expression, control and cell technologies to deliver safe, effective and scalable cell- and viral-based therapies for the treatment of cancer and graft-versus-host-disease. The Company's immuno-oncology programs, in collaboration with Intrexon Corporation (NYSE:XON) and the MD Anderson Cancer Center, include chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR-T) and other adoptive cell-based approaches that use non-viral gene transfer methods for broad scalability. The Company is advancing programs in multiple stages of development together with Intrexon Corporation's RheoSwitch Therapeutic System<sup>®</sup> technology, a switch to turn on and off, and precisely modulate, gene expression in order to improve therapeutic index. The Company's pipeline includes a number of cell-based therapeutics in both clinical and preclinical testing which are focused on hematologic and solid tumor malignancies.

### **Forward-Looking Safe-Harbor Statement:**

This press release contains certain forward-looking information about ZiOPHARM Oncology, Inc. that is intended to be covered by the safe harbor for "forward-looking statements" provided by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts, and in some cases can be identified by terms such as "may," "will," "could," "expects," "plans," "anticipates," and "believes." These statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the Company's plans and expectations regarding its securities offerings, fundraising activities and financial strategy, the progress, timing and results of preclinical and clinical trials involving the Company's drug candidates, and the progress of the Company's research and development programs. All of such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties, many of which are difficult to predict and generally beyond the control of the Company, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, the forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to: our ability to finance our operations and business initiatives and obtain funding for such activities, whether chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR-T) approaches, Ad-RTS-hIL-12, TCR and NK cell-based therapies, or any of our other therapeutic candidates will advance further in the preclinical or clinical trials process and whether and when, if at all, they will receive final approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or equivalent foreign regulatory agencies and for which indications; whether chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR-T) approaches, Ad-RTS-hIL-12, TCR and NK cell-based therapies, and our other therapeutic products will be successfully marketed if approved; the strength and enforceability of our intellectual property rights; competition from

other pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies; and the other risk factors contained in our periodic and interim reports filed from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including but not limited to, our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements that speak only as of the date hereof, and we do not undertake any obligation to revise and disseminate forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof, or to reflect the occurrence of or non-occurrence of any events.

### **Trademarks**

RheoSwitch Therapeutic System<sup>®</sup> and RTS<sup>®</sup> are registered trademarks of Intrexon Corporation.

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