



AVI BioPharma to Present at TIDES Meeting

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Presentation to Highlight AVI's Manipulation of Immune Response

For Immediate Release

PORTLAND, OR — May 20, 2008 — AVI BioPharma, Inc. (NASDAQ: AVII) today announced that Patrick Iversen, Ph.D., AVI's Senior Vice President of Strategic Alliances, is presenting at the TIDES Oligonucleotide and Peptide Technology and Product Development meeting in Las Vegas on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. The title of his presentation is "Manipulating the Immune Response with Cell Penetrating Peptide Conjugated Phosphorodiamidate Morpholino Oligomers" and is to feature the targeting of genes, such as interleukin-10 (IL-10), involved in the host immune response, with AVI's proprietary Phosphorodiamidate Morpholino Oligomers and arginine-rich peptides. IL-10 is considered a key regulator of immune response to infection from viruses, bacteria and other organisms.

About AVI BioPharma

AVI BioPharma develops therapeutic products for the treatment of life-threatening diseases using third-generation NeuGene® antisense drugs and ESPRIT directed RNA alternative splicing technology. AVI's ESPRIT technology is initially being applied to potential treatments for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. AVI's NeuGene compounds are also designed to treat cardiovascular restenosis in stent and coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) procedures. In addition to targeting specific genes in the body, AVI's antiviral program uses NeuGene antisense compounds to combat disease by targeting single-stranded RNA viruses, including Marburg Musoke and Ebola Zaire viruses. More information about AVI is available at www.avibio.com.