

AVI BioPharma, Inc. Presenting at BMO Focus on Healthcare Conference

July 29, 2009 2:14 PM ET

For Immediate Release

CORVALLIS, OR — July 29, 2009 — AVI BioPharma, Inc. (NASDAQ: AVII), a developer of RNA-based drugs, today announced that Leslie Hudson, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, will present at the BMO Capital Markets 9th Annual Focus on Healthcare Conference taking place Wednesday, August 5, 2009 in New York.

Dr. Hudson will present at 4 p.m. Eastern Time. A live and archived webcast of the presentation will be accessible at: <http://www.bmocm.com/conferences/2009healthcare/webcast/> and can also be accessed by visiting the "Events and Presentations" section of the AVI BioPharma website www.avibio.com.

About AVI BioPharma

AVI BioPharma is focused on the discovery and development of RNA-based drugs utilizing proprietary derivatives of its antisense chemistry (morpholino-modified phosphorodiamidate oligomers or PMOs) that can be applied to a wide range of diseases and genetic disorders through several distinct mechanisms of action. Unlike other RNA-based therapeutic approaches, AVI's antisense technology has been used to directly target both messenger RNA (mRNA) and its precursor (pre-mRNA), allowing for both up- and down-regulation of targeted genes and proteins. AVI's RNA-based drug programs are being evaluated for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy as well as for the treatment of cardiovascular restenosis through our partner Global Therapeutics, a Cook Group Company. AVI's antiviral programs have demonstrated promising outcomes in Ebola Zaire and Marburg Musoke virus infections and may prove applicable to other viral targets such as HCV or Dengue viruses. For more information, visit www.avibio.com.