

## **AVI BioPharma Announces Conference Call Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009 to Provide Update on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Program**

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### **For Immediate Release**

PORTLAND, OR — January 20, 2009 — AVI BioPharma, Inc. (NASDAQ: AVII), a developer of RNA-based drugs, will hold a conference call Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. Eastern time (6:00 a.m. Pacific) to provide an update on the Company's Duchenne muscular dystrophy program.

Individuals interested in listening to the live conference call may do so by dialing 866-303-7746 toll free within the United States and Canada, or 416-641-6139 for international callers.

A replay of the call will be available by dialing 800-408-3053 toll free within the U.S. and Canada or 416-695-5800. The passcode for the replay is 3281420. In addition, a recording of the call will be available within approximately 24 hours at [www.avibio.com/events.php](http://www.avibio.com/events.php).

### **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 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](http://www.avibio.com).