

## **AVI BioPharma, Inc. to Present at 7th Annual Biodefense Vaccines & Therapeutics Conference in Washington D.C.**

June 10, 2009 6:25 PM ET

### **For Immediate Release**

PORTLAND, OR — June 10, 2009 — AVI BioPharma, Inc. (NASDAQ: AVII), a developer of RNA-based drugs, today announced that Patrick Iversen, Ph.D., Senior Vice President of Strategic Alliances, will present at the upcoming 7th Annual Biodefense Vaccines & Therapeutics conference taking place in Washington D.C.

Dr. Iversen will present on Monday, June 15, as part of a pre-conference symposium on “Developments in Biodefense Technology Platform.” He will be a featured speaker in a session titled “Building Technology Platforms to Array Against Multiple Threats,” where he will discuss the utility of AVI’s RNA-based drugs against biological threats, including Ebola and Marburg viruses. AVI has begun to evaluate the rapid mobilization of RNA-based drugs against positive and negative strand RNA viruses. This analysis includes target optimization, avoidance of drug resistance and the relative advantages of virus-specific and host immune response-specific therapeutics to both improve host protection and reduce disease.

Information about the conference can be found at [www.infocastinc.com/index.php/conference/biodef09](http://www.infocastinc.com/index.php/conference/biodef09).

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