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**For Immediate Release**

**Avalon Pharmaceuticals Announces Appointment of James H. Meade, Ph.D. to Vice President for Business Development and the Promotion of Paul E. Young, Ph.D. to Vice President of Research**

**Germantown, MD – January 15, 2004** - Avalon Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced today two moves to strengthen the management team through the hiring of James H. Meade, Ph.D. to be Vice President for Business Development and the promotion of Paul E. Young, Ph.D. to Vice President of Research.

“We are pleased to have Jim Meade join the management team of Avalon and promote Paul Young to Vice President of Research,” commented Kenneth C. Carter, Ph.D. President and Chief Executive Officer of Avalon Pharmaceuticals, Inc. “Jim’s impressive breadth of experience in both big pharma and biotech is an important asset to our company and will help Avalon capitalize on the significant momentum we are building in discovery programs and partnering efforts. Additionally, Paul’s promotion recognizes his achievements in helping make Avalon a leader in novel chemical genomic and genetic approaches to target, biomarker and drug discovery and will help strengthen and focus our research initiatives.”

Prior to joining Avalon, Dr. Meade was a Senior Director at Pfizer/Pharmacia Corporation where he was responsible for Global Licensing for anti-infective and urology products. Dr. Meade also has over 15 years of experience in senior level business development positions with top biotech and pharmaceutical companies, including Pharmacia, Bayer, Chiron and Cetus. Dr. Meade’s extensive experience in business development includes executing deals involving platform technology through early discovery phase and late clinical phase products across multiple therapeutic areas. His expertise provides value and important insight to Avalon’s business development efforts.

Dr. Young joined Avalon in 2000 and most recently served as a Senior Scientific Director of Discovery Biology and a member of Avalon’s Scientific Management Committee. Dr. Young has made significant contributions to Avalon’s basic research and applied discovery programs. Prior to joining Avalon, Dr. Young was a senior scientist at Human Genome Sciences and also held positions at Bayer Corporation and Genentech, earlier in his career.

### **About Avalon Pharmaceuticals**

Avalon Pharmaceuticals utilizes unique and proprietary forward chemical genomics-based methods to accelerate the discovery of novel targets, biomarkers and drugs. Avalon's unique capabilities in cytogenetics and gene expression analysis allow Avalon to rapidly discover and validate novel oncology targets. For the discovery of small molecules Avalon utilizes a comprehensive systems approach, enabling more informed decisions at earlier stages in the drug discovery process. These innovative techniques allow for the rapid identification of lead compounds through an enriched understanding of the mechanism of action within diseased cells, leading to accelerated medicinal chemistry driven lead optimization programs and clinical development. This revolutionary systems approach is applicable across multiple disease areas. Currently, Avalon is focusing its efforts to produce the next generation of cancer medicines. Avalon Pharmaceuticals was established in 1999 and is headquartered in Germantown, Maryland.

For more information please visit [www.avalonrx.com](http://www.avalonrx.com)

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