



## **BIOCRYST APPOINTS MICHAEL A. DARWIN CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Birmingham, Alabama – October 17, 2002 – BioCryst Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq NM: BCRX) today announced the promotion of Michael A. Darwin from Controller to Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary, effective November 1, 2002. Mr. Darwin will replace W. Randall Pittman, who is leaving the company to pursue another business venture.

Prior to joining BioCryst as Controller in June 2000, Mr. Darwin served for ten years as Chief Financial Officer of a privately held company in the food services industry. He began his career at Ernst & Young and spent six years in public accounting practice.

“Mike has been instrumental in forming and driving our company initiatives forward, and is highly respected by our Board of Directors and our employees. We are very fortunate to have Mike on board at BioCryst, and I am confident in his ability to step into this new level of responsibility.” said Charles E. Bugg, Ph.D., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BioCryst. “We thank Randy for the many contributions he has made to BioCryst over the past several years, and wish him well in his future endeavors.”

BioCryst Pharmaceuticals, Inc. designs, optimizes and develops novel drugs that block key enzymes essential for viral, cardiovascular and oncologic disease processes. BioCryst integrates the necessary disciplines of biology, crystallography, medicinal chemistry and computer modeling to effectively use structure-based drug design to discover and develop small molecule pharmaceuticals. Enrollment in a Phase I/II trial for one of BioCryst’s product candidates, BCX-1777, is underway at the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center for patients with T-cell leukemias and T-cell lymphomas. BioCryst has several new enzyme targets in drug discovery including tissue factor/factor VIIa, hepatitis C polymerase, and complement component C1s. For more information about BioCryst, please visit the company’s web site at [www.biocryst.com](http://www.biocryst.com).

These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, BioCryst’s current and future development of BCX-1777, progress with respect to continuing Phase I/II development and clinical trials of BCX-1777, whether BioCryst will be able to continue Phase I/II clinical trials of BCX-1777, and whether BioCryst will have sufficient financial and other resources to continue its product development in the areas of tissue factor/factor VIIa, hepatitis C polymerase and complement component C1s. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are based on assumptions and subject to risks and uncertainties. Given these uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Some of the factors that could affect the forward-looking statements contained herein include that we may not be able to enroll the required number of subjects in clinical trials of BCX-1777, that we may not be able to continue future development of BCX-1777 or any of our other current development programs including tissue factor/factor VIIa, hepatitis C polymerase and complement component C1s, that BCX-1777 or our other development programs may never result in future license or royalty payments being received by BioCryst, that BCX-1777 or any of our other product candidates may not receive required regulatory clearances from the FDA or that BioCryst may not be able to expand its product development pipeline. Please refer to the documents BioCryst files periodically with the Securities and Exchange Commission, specifically BioCryst’s most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, which identify important factors that could cause the actual results to differ materially from those contained in the projections or forward-looking statements.