



BIOCRYST APPOINTS CARL L. GORDON TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Birmingham, Alabama - March 11, 2004 - BioCryst Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq NM: BCRX) today announced the appointment of Carl L. Gordon, Ph.D., CFA to the company's board of directors. Dr. Gordon is a founding General Partner of OrbiMed Advisors LLC, an asset management firm focused on the global healthcare industry. OrbiMed was also BioCryst's lead investor for the latest round of financing totaling \$21.4 million in February.

Prior to Dr. Gordon's role of General Partner of OrbiMed Advisors, he was a senior biotechnology analyst at Mehta and Isaly, the predecessor firm to OrbiMed Advisors, from 1995 to 1997. From 1993 to 1995, Dr. Gordon was a Fellow at the Rockefeller University. Dr. Gordon has a Ph.D. in molecular biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his doctoral work involved studies of protein folding and assembly. Dr. Gordon also has a B.S. from Harvard College.

"We are pleased to have Carl join BioCryst's board," said Charles E. Bugg, Ph.D., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BioCryst. "The addition of Carl will be invaluable to BioCryst's business and the company's success and we look forward to his extensive investor knowledge and experience in the biotechnology industry, as we continue to make progress in the development and advancement of our products for cancer, cardiovascular and autoimmune diseases and viral infections."

BioCryst Pharmaceuticals, Inc. designs, optimizes and develops novel drugs that block key enzymes essential for cancer, cardiovascular and autoimmune diseases, and viral infections. 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 four Phase I trials for BioCryst's lead product candidate, BCX-1777, is underway at nine U.S. cancer centers for patients with T-cell malignancies, hematologic malignancies, and other refractory cancers. BioCryst has other new enzyme targets in drug discovery including tissue factor/factor VIIa and hepatitis C polymerase. For more information about BioCryst, please visit the company's web site at 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, performances or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. 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 the results of the clinical trials of BCX-1777 may not be positive, that the results from the Phase I studies of BCX-1777 may not be replicated in future studies or larger patient populations, that that we may not be able to continue future development of BCX-1777, BCX-4208 or any of our other current development programs including tissue factor/factor VIIa and hepatitis C polymerase, that BCX-1777 or our other development programs may never result in future product, license or royalty payments being received by BioCryst, that BioCryst may not have sufficient cash to continue funding the development, manufacturing, marketing or distribution of its products and that additional funding, if necessary, may not be available at all or on terms acceptable to BioCryst. 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, its Form S-3 Registration Statement filed on December 16, 2003 and its Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 4, 2004, which identify important factors that could cause the actual results to differ materially from those contained in the projections or forward-looking statements.