



BIOCRYST NAMES DR. JAMES ALEXANDER, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER TO MEET GROWING PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Birmingham, Alabama – June 21, 2006 - BioCryst Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: BCRX) today announced W. James Alexander, M.D., M.P.H., has joined the company as Senior Vice President, Clinical and Regulatory Operations and Chief Medical Officer. J. Claude Bennett, M.D. will relinquish the title of Medical Director, and continue in his roles as President and Chief Operating Officer of BioCryst.

"Our corporate strategy has placed BioCryst in the enviable position of experiencing significant growth in our clinical programs, and Dr. Alexander's experience in clinical development and his unique understanding of regulatory affairs will augment BioCryst's already strong resources," said Charles E. Bugg, Ph.D., Chairman and CEO of BioCryst. "Jim will provide insights and first-hand knowledge that will be critical to the company's success as we advance our products into pivotal clinical trials and seek marketing approvals."

Prior to joining BioCryst, Dr. Alexander was Senior Vice President, Product Development and Chief Medical Officer at Pozen, Inc.

Dr. Alexander was previously Global Chief Medical Officer for Inveresk Research Group. Prior to that position, he had served as Chief Executive Officer, President and Chief Medical Officer at PharmaResearch Corporation with responsibilities for medical and regulatory operations. Dr. Alexander was Vice President and Worldwide Director for product safety and pharmacovigilance at GlaxoWellcome before joining PharmaResearch Corporation. He has contributed to the development and regulatory approvals of drugs for the treatment of protozoal, bacterial, and viral infections and respiratory conditions.

Dr. Alexander received his M.D. from the University of Mississippi and his M.P.H. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases.

About BioCryst

BioCryst Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a leader in the use of crystallography and structure based drug design for the development of novel therapeutics to treat cancer, cardiovascular diseases, autoimmune diseases, and viral infections. The company is advancing multiple internal programs toward potential commercialization including Fodosine™ in oncology, BCX-208 in transplantation and autoimmune diseases, peramivir in seasonal and life-threatening influenza and BCX-4678 in hepatitis C. BioCryst has a worldwide partnership with Roche for the development and commercialization BCX-4208 and is collaborating with Mundipharma Holdings for the development and commercialization of Fodosine™ in markets across Europe, Asia, Australia and certain neighboring countries. For more information about BioCryst, please visit the company's web site at <http://www.biocryst.com>.

Forward-looking statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements, including statement regarding future results, performance or achievements.

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 those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Some of the factors that could affect the forward-looking statements contained herein include, among others, that we or our licensees may not be able to enroll the required number of subjects in planned clinical trials of our product candidates and that such clinical trials may not be successfully completed with positive results, that BioCryst or its licensees may not commence as expected additional human clinical trials with our product candidates, that our product candidates may not receive required regulatory clearances from the FDA, that we may not be able to obtain a Special Protocol Assessment or otherwise be able to complete successfully the Phase IIb trial for Fodosine™ that is currently planned to be pivotal, that we or our licensees may not be able to continue future development of our current and future drug candidate programs, that our development programs may never result in future product, license or royalty payments being received by BioCryst, that BioCryst may not reach favorable agreements with potential pharmaceutical and biotech partners for further development of its product candidates, that BioCryst may not have sufficient cash to continue funding the development, manufacturing, marketing or distribution of its products, that additional funding, if necessary, may not be available at all or on terms acceptable to BioCryst and the risks,

uncertainties and factors identified in the documents BioCryst files periodically with the Securities and Exchange Commission, specifically including BioCryst's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and current reports on Form 8-K.

These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and BioCryst has no obligation to update or revise the statements. BioCryst cautions that you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.

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