

Isis Pharmaceuticals to Present at BIO Emerging Company Investor Forum

October 11, 2004

CARLSBAD, Calif., Oct. 11 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: ISIS) today announced that the company will present at the BIO Emerging Company Investor Forum (BECIF) at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, CA. Stanley T. Crooke, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman and CEO, will provide an overview of the company and an update on clinical and business activities.

The presentation will begin at 2:40 p.m. (PT) on Thursday, October 14, 2004. To access the live audio webcast, log on to www.isispharm.com. In addition to the live webcast, the presentation will be archived on the company's website for 30 days.

Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is exploiting its expertise in RNA to discover and develop novel human therapeutic drugs for its pipeline and for its partners. The company has successfully commercialized the world's first antisense drug and has 12 antisense products in development to treat metabolic, cardiovascular, inflammatory and viral diseases, and cancer. Through its Ibis Therapeutics® program, Isis is developing a biosensor to identify infectious organisms, and discovering small molecule drugs that bind to RNA. As an innovator in RNA-based drug discovery and development, Isis is the owner or exclusive licensee of more than 1,400 issued patents worldwide. Additional information about Isis is available at www.isispharm.com.

This press release includes forward-looking statements regarding our business, the financial position of Isis Pharmaceuticals, and the therapeutic and commercial potential of our technologies and products in development. Any statement describing our goals, expectations, intentions or beliefs is a forward-looking statement and should be considered an at-risk statement, including those statements that are described as Isis' clinical goals. Such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties, particularly those inherent in the process of developing technology and systems used to identify infectious agents, in discovering and commercializing drugs that are safe and effective for use as human therapeutics, and in the endeavor of building a business around such products and services. Actual results could differ materially from those discussed in this press release. As a result, you are cautioned not to rely on these forward-looking statements. These and other risks concerning Isis' research and development programs are described in additional detail in Isis' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, and quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2004, which are on file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Copies of these and other documents are available from the company.

Ibis Therapeutics® is a registered trademark of Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

SOURCE Isis Pharmaceuticals

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