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Tularik to Receive Award for Commitment to Employee Child Care

South San Francisco, Calif., November 9, 2001—Tularik Inc. (Nasdaq: TLRK) today announced that it has been selected to receive the Corporate Advocate Award for its commitment to meet the child care needs of its employees.

The Corporate Advocate Award of the Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County will be presented to Chris Smith, Tularik's director of human resources, today at a ceremony at the Hotel Sofitel in Redwood City.

"Tularik is being cited for its enlightened corporate vision regarding employees' child care needs," said Cassie Dakan, a spokesperson for the Child Care Coordinating Council. Ms. Dakan pointed out that San Mateo County has the highest percentage of working parents 66 percent in the state of California. "Recognizing that high-quality, consistent child care is a key quality of life issue for its employees, Tularik set an example that we hope other companies will follow, particularly small and medium-sized firms that don't have the option of building on-site child care facilities and programs."

Three years ago, Tularik's management recognized that the limited supply of child care resources and the high cost of existing programs had created significant challenges for employees. After conducting a thorough local search, the company entered into an agreement with The Early Years, a child care center located within a mile of the company's offices. Tularik began to invest funds in the center's operations, enabling it to enhance and expand its operations.

"This program has been a clear success," said Chris Smith. "Our employees appreciate the fact that the child care center is close to their workplace, and that their children are learning and receiving the best quality of care in an attractive, well-run environment."

Dr. David Goeddel, Tularik's CEO, said Tularik was proud to take a leading role in supporting child care. "Our philosophy is simple: we expect a great deal of the people who work at Tularik, and we, in turn, are committed to helping them in meaningful ways. We've made a serious effort to address child care needs, and it's gratifying to me that our program has drawn accolades within our community and is being looked at as a model for other companies."

Although over 300 people now work at Tularik's California location, Mr. Smith noted that the company was much smaller when the decision was made to provide child care services. "For our size, it was a very unusual step. But we wanted to provide, to whatever extent we were able, an advantage to our employees as they try to balance their

workplace demands with the demands of family. We also want to demonstrate to prospective new hires some of the hallmarks of our corporate culture. From its earliest days, Tularik has offered comprehensive benefits as part of its total compensation philosophy. In a very competitive field, this approach has served us well, as the Corporate Advocate Award attests."

The Corporate Advocate Award will be presented to Tularik by a representative of Genentech, last year's award recipient. The advocate awards are presented in conjunction with the Council's annual Family Forum event.

About The Child Care Coordinating Council

The Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County has been San Mateo County's resource and referral agency for families seeking quality child care for almost 30 years. Its mission is to mobilize, coordinate, and develop resources to assure quality child care that meets the diverse needs of children and families County-wide. It is devoted to supporting parents' efforts to integrate work and family life and to help families identify and choose high-quality child care. It seeks to increase and maximize the flow of resources to help children and families. The Council also collects, analyzes, and shares a wide range of data to help families, neighborhoods, communities, and policy makers understand child care and child development needs.

About Tularik

Tularik is engaged in the discovery and development of a broad range of novel and superior orally available drugs that act through the regulation of gene expression. Tularik programs address cancer, viral diseases, inflammation, immune disorders, lipid disorders, diabetes and obesity. Tularik has established strategic partnerships with Japan Tobacco Inc., Roche Bioscience and Eli Lilly and Company. For more information, visit Tularik's Internet website at www.tularik.com.

This press release contains "forward-looking" statements. For this purpose, any statements contained in this press release that are not statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Words such as "believes," "anticipates," "plans," "expects," "will," "intends" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. There are a number of important factors that could cause the results of Tularik to differ materially from those indicated by these forward-looking statements, including, among others, risks detailed from time to time in Tularik's SEC reports, including the report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2001.