

Sunesis Appoints Matthew Fust to Board of Directors

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South San Francisco, CA, June 16, 2005 – Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. today announced that Matthew Fust, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Jazz Pharmaceuticals, will be joining Sunesis' Board of Directors. This appointment, effective immediately, brings the total number of Sunesis Board members to nine.

“We are pleased to welcome Matt to Sunesis' Board,” said James Young, Ph.D., Executive Chairman of Sunesis. “His business acumen and many years of experience in managing all aspects of corporate finance for both private and public biotechnology companies will be an excellent complement to Sunesis' Board.”

Prior to joining Jazz Pharmaceuticals in May 2003, Mr. Fust was most recently Chief Financial Officer of Perlegen Sciences, Inc., a privately-held genomics company. Previously, he was an executive with ALZA Corporation from 1996 to 2001, most recently serving as its Chief Financial Officer through the acquisition of that company by Johnson & Johnson. At ALZA, Mr. Fust had responsibility for the accounting, financial planning, information technology, internal audit, tax and treasury functions. Before joining ALZA, he was a management consultant for five years in Andersen Consulting's healthcare strategy practice. Mr. Fust holds an M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and a Bachelor's of accounting degree from the University of Minnesota.

About Sunesis Pharmaceuticals

Sunesis is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of novel small molecule therapeutics for oncology, inflammatory diseases and other unmet medical needs. Sunesis has built a product candidate portfolio through internal discovery and in-licensing of novel cancer therapeutics. Sunesis is advancing its product candidates through in-house research and development efforts and strategic collaborations with leading pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies. For further information, visit www.sunesis.com.

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Forward-Looking Statements

This press release may contain forward-looking statements that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. Sunesis may not actually achieve the plans, intentions or expectations contained in such forward-looking statements. Actual results or events could differ materially from the plans, intentions and expectations contained in such forward-looking statements. Sunesis does not assume any obligation to update any such forward-looking statements.

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