



**COMPANY CONTACT:**

**Vion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**

Alan Kessman, Chief Executive Officer  
Howard B. Johnson, President and CFO  
(203) 498-4210

**IAN WILLIAMS ELECTED TO VION PHARMACEUTICALS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**NEW HAVEN, CT, June 28, 2006 – VION PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. (NASDAQ CAPITAL MARKET: VION)** announced today that Ian Williams had been elected to the Board of Directors of the Company at the 2006 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

From 1981 until his retirement in 2004, Ian Williams (age 52) was employed by Pfizer, Inc. in various leadership positions in pharmaceutical research and development and strategic planning. He retired as Executive Director of the Strategic Management Group where he was responsible for worldwide strategy for Pfizer Research and Development. He now heads his own consulting company.

Alan Kessman, Chief Executive Officer, noted, "We are pleased that an individual of the caliber and experience of Ian Williams has joined our Board of Directors. Ian has an excellent track record in pharmaceutical development and extensive experience in clinical and commercial strategic planning. He will be a valuable addition to our Board."

In addition to Mr. Williams, six other members of the Company's Board of Directors were reelected at the 2006 Annual Meeting. They are: William Miller, Chairman of the Board, Alan Kessman, Chief Executive Officer, George Bickerstaff, Dr. Stephen Carter, Dr. Alan Sartorelli, and Gary Willis.

Vion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is committed to extending the lives and improving the quality of life of cancer patients worldwide by developing and commercializing innovative cancer therapeutics. Vion has two agents in clinical trials. Cloretazine<sup>®</sup> (VNP40101M), a unique alkylating agent, is being evaluated in: (i) a Phase III trial in combination with cytarabine in relapsed acute myelogenous leukemia and (ii) a Phase II pivotal trial as a single agent in elderly patients with previously untreated *de novo* poor-risk acute myelogenous leukemia. Additional trials of Cloretazine<sup>®</sup> (VNP40101M) as a single agent in adult and pediatric brain tumors, and small cell lung cancer, and in combination with temozolomide in hematologic malignancies, are also underway. Triapine<sup>®</sup>, a potent inhibitor of a key step in DNA synthesis, is being evaluated in clinical trials sponsored by the National Cancer Institute. In preclinical studies, Vion is also evaluating VNP40541, a hypoxia-selective compound, and hydrazone compounds. The Company also is seeking development partners for TAPET<sup>®</sup>, its modified *Salmonella* vector used to deliver anticancer agents directly to tumors. For additional information on Vion and its product development programs, visit the Company's Internet web site at [www.vionpharm.com](http://www.vionpharm.com).

*This news release contains forward-looking statements. Such statements are subject to certain risk factors which may cause Vion's plans to differ or results to vary from those expected, including Vion's ability to secure external sources of funding to continue its operations, the inability to access capital and funding on favorable terms, continued operating losses and the inability to continue operations as a result, its dependence on regulatory approval for its products, delayed or unfavorable results of drug trials, the possibility that favorable results of earlier clinical trials are not predictive of safety and efficacy results in later clinical trials, the need for additional research and testing, and a variety of other risks set forth from time to time in Vion's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including but not limited to the risks discussed in Vion's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005. Except in special circumstances in which a duty to update arises under law when prior disclosure becomes materially misleading in light of subsequent events, Vion does not intend to update any of these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.*