

Edgar Filing: Aeterna Zentaris Inc. - Form 6-K

Aeterna Zentaris Inc.
Form 6-K
August 20, 2007

FORM 6-K
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

REPORT OF FOREIGN ISSUER

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of August 2007

AETERNA ZENTARIS INC.

1405, Parc-Technologique Boulevard
Quebec, Quebec
Canada, G1P 4P5
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports
under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F X
----- -----

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information
contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the
Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Yes No X
----- -----

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant
in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b):82-_____

DOCUMENTS INDEX

Documents Description

Edgar Filing: Aeterna Zentaris Inc. - Form 6-K

-
1. Press release dated August 16, 2007: AETerna Zentaris Completes Management Team with the Appointment of Chief Medical Officer
-

[AETERNA ZENTARIS LOGO]

AETERNA ZENTARIS INC. 1405 du Parc-Technologique Blvd.
Quebec (Quebec) Canada G1P 4P5 T 418 652-8525 F 418 652-0881
www.aeternazentaris.com

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

AETERNA ZENTARIS COMPLETES MANAGEMENT TEAM WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA, AUGUST 16, 2007 - AETerna Zentaris Inc. (TSX: AEZ; NASDAQ: AEZS), a global biopharmaceutical company focused on endocrine therapy and oncology, today announced the filling of a key position completing the management team with the appointment of Paul Blake, M.D., as Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer.

"The appointment of Dr. Blake is timely and critical as our foremost priority is to bring our flagship product candidate, cetrorelix, to market as a novel treatment in the BPH indication in an expeditious manner", said David J. Mazzo, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer at AETerna Zentaris. "Paul brings a wealth of knowledge and is an excellent addition to our team, with over 25 years of solid experience in clinical development and product launching for major pharmaceutical companies worldwide. He will be instrumental in effectively managing our development programs through to commercialization, specifically our Phase 3 program in BPH for cetrorelix, as well as focusing on our other high priority drug development programs."

Prior to joining AETerna Zentaris, Dr. Blake was Chief Medical Officer of Avigenics, Inc. In 2005, he was Senior Vice President, Clinical Research and Regulatory Affairs at Cephalon, Inc. before being promoted to Executive Vice President, Worldwide Medical & Regulatory Operations. From 1992 to 1998, he held the position of Senior Vice President and Medical Director, Clinical Research and Development at SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals (now GSK).

Dr. Blake earned a medical degree from the London University, Royal Free Hospital. He was elected Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology, Fellow of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine, Royal College of Physicians in the UK, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in the UK.

"Over the recent months, we have made significant progress in strengthening our

Edgar Filing: Aeterna Zentaris Inc. - Form 6-K

core competencies and have undeniably established a world class team," said Dr. Mazzo. "I believe that with this experienced, highly competent team along with our rich, self-sustaining pipeline, we have all the key elements to successfully place AETerna Zentaris in a new growth category and significantly unlock shareholder value."

[AETERNA ZENTARIS LOGO]

Following Dr. Blake's appointment, the Company's Executive Management Team is comprised of the following members:

- Paul Blake, M.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer;
- Jurgen Engel, Ph.D., Executive Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer;
- Ellen McDonald, M.B.A., Senior Vice President, Business Operations and Chief Business Officer;
- Mario Paradis, C.A., Senior Vice President, Administrative and Legal Affairs, and Corporate Secretary;
- Nicholas J. Pelliccione, Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance; and
- Dennis Turpin, C.A., Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

ABOUT AETERNA ZENTARIS INC.

AETerna Zentaris Inc. is a global biopharmaceutical company focused on endocrine therapy and oncology with proven expertise in drug discovery, development and commercialization.

News releases and additional information are available at www.aeternazentaris.com.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release contains forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Statements that are not historical facts, including statements preceded by, followed by, or that include the words "believes", "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "expects", "estimates", "will," "may", "should", "approximately", and the negative or other variations of those terms or comparable terminology, are forward-looking statements. Such statements reflect management's current views, intentions, strategies and plans and are based on certain assumptions.

Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, which could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, among

Edgar Filing: Aeterna Zentaris Inc. - Form 6-K

others, the ability of AETerna Zentaris to implement its business strategies, the availability of funds and resources to pursue R&D projects, the successful and timely completion of clinical studies, the ability of AETerna Zentaris to take advantage of business opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry, uncertainties related to the regulatory process and general changes in economic conditions. Investors should consult the Company's quarterly and annual filings with the Canadian and U.S. securities commissions for additional information on risks and uncertainties relating to the forward-looking statements. Investors are cautioned not to rely on these forward-looking statements. The Company does not undertake to update these forward-looking statements.

2

[AETERNA ZENTARIS LOGO]

-30-

CONTACTS:

SENIOR DIRECTOR, INVESTOR RELATIONS AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Jenene Thomas
(908) 938-1475
jenene.thomas@aeternazentaris.com

MEDIA RELATIONS

Paul Burroughs
(418) 652-8525 ext. 406
paul.burroughs@aeternazentaris.com

3

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AETERNA ZENTARIS INC.

Edgar Filing: Aeterna Zentaris Inc. - Form 6-K

Date: August 20, 2007

By: /s/ Mario Paradis

Mario Paradis
Senior Vice President, Administration
and Affairs and Corporate Secretary