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[AETERNA ZENTARIS LOGO]

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www.aeternazentaris.com

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

AETERNA ZENTARIS ANNOUNCES THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS
CONFERENCE CALL AND WEBCAST

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA, OCTOBER 28, 2004 - AETerna Zentaris Inc. (TSX: AEZ;
Nasdaq: AEZS) announced that its quarterly conference call and webcast have
been scheduled for Thursday, November 4, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern time. The
call will follow the press release of AETerna Zentaris' third quarter 2004
financial results issued earlier on the same day. Participants may access the
live webcast via the Company's website at www.aeternazentaris.com in the
"investors" section, or by telephone using the following numbers: 416-640-4127,
514-807-8791 or 1-800-814-4941.

A replay of the webcast will also be available on the website for a period of 30
days.

AETerna Zentaris is a biopharmaceutical company with an extensive portfolio of
marketed and development-stage products in oncology, endocrine therapy and
infectious diseases.

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CONTACTS:

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of

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1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AETERNA ZENTARIS INC.

Date: October 28, 2004

By: /s/ Mario Paradis

Mario Paradis
Senior Finance Director and
Corporate Secretary