Evelyn R. Robledo Named Vice President of Quality Assurance and Compliance

CUPERTINO, Calif., Jan. 24 /PRNewswire/ — DURECT Corporation (Nasdaq: DRRX) today announced that Evelyn R. Robledo has been promoted to Vice President of Quality Assurance and Compliance.

Ms. Robledo joined DURECT in March 2000 and, utilizing her solid understanding of FDA regulations, developed and implemented an effective Quality Assurance System to support DURECT's product development and commercial activities. The breadth of her background in both pharmaceuticals and medical devices has proven to be a valuable asset to DURECT as the company moves its pharmaceutical systems development programs through the product development phases, and continues to sustain its ongoing commercial business.

Ms. Robledo's background includes a Bachelor of Science degree from Catholic University in Puerto Rico, and 25 years of experience in the quality area of FDA regulated businesses. Her proven track record includes her role as a Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control at Molecular Biosystems, followed by a position as Vice President of Quality Assurance and Quality Control of Cygnus Inc., and most recently as a Principal of Quality Systems at Sensible Solution Engineering, a private consulting firm.

Ms. Robledo played a key role in achieving DURECT's milestone of moving the first product development program, DUROS sufentanil, for the treatment of chronic pain, into a Phase II clinical trial in December 2000. James E. Brown, Chief Executive Officer of DURECT, remarked, "As DURECT continues to expand, we look forward to continuing to draw on Ms. Robledo's experience and vision to grow our quality organization to meet the requirements of regulatory bodies as well as DURECT's business needs."

DURECT Corporation is pioneering the development and commercialization of pharmaceutical systems to deliver the right drug to the right site in the right amount at the right time. DURECT's pharmaceutical systems combine technology innovations from the medical device and drug delivery industries with proprietary pharmaceutical and biotechnology drug formulations. These capabilities can enable new drug therapies or optimize existing therapies based on a broad range of compounds, including small molecule pharmaceuticals as well as biotechnology molecules such as proteins, peptides and genes. DURECT's initial portfolio of products combine the DUROS technology, a proven and patented drug delivery platform licensed for specified fields of use from ALZA Corporation, with drugs for which medical data on efficacy and safety are available. Founded in 1998, the Company is headquartered in Cupertino, CA. The Company's World Wide Web site can be accessed at http://www.www.durect.com. To join DURECT's email alert service, please register by selecting "Email Alerts" on the main Investor Relations web page at http://www.www.durect.com.

DUROS is a registered trademark of ALZA Corporation.

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