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**MAXIM PHARMACEUTICALS APPOINTS JOHN F. BEDARD
TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

SAN DIEGO, October 5, 2004 -- Maxim Pharmaceuticals (Nasdaq: MAXM) (SSE: MAXM) announced today that John F. Bedard, 55, was appointed to the Company's board of directors. Mr. Bedard will serve as the seventh independent outside director on the eight person board.

With over twenty-five years of experience directing drug development and registration programs in the pharmaceutical industry, Mr. Bedard brings valuable experience to Maxim. Since 2002 Mr. Bedard has been engaged as a principal in a pharmaceutical consulting practice. Prior to that, he served in senior management positions during his 15 year career at Bristol-Myers Squibb, most recently as Vice President, FDA Liaison and Global Strategy. In that position, Mr. Bedard was the liaison with the FDA for new drug development, and he was also responsible for global development plans and registration activities for new drugs. Before his tenure at Bristol-Myers Squibb, Mr. Bedard held senior regulatory affair positions at Smith Kline & French Laboratories and Ayerst Laboratories.