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Aeterna Zentaris Inc.
Form 6-K
May 20, 2005

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 May 2005

AETERNA ZENTARIS INC.

1405, boul. du Parc-Technologique
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
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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
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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

1. Press release dated May 18, 2005 -Aeterna Zentaris to Hold Annual Shareholders Meeting on May 26 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Montreal

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AETERNA ZENTARIS

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www.aeternazentaris.com

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

AETERNA ZENTARIS TO HOLD ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING ON MAY 26 AT THE
RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL IN MONTREAL

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA, MAY 18, 2005 - Aeterna Zentaris Inc. (TSX: AEZ; Nasdaq: AEZS) announced that its annual shareholders meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 26 2005 at 10:30 a.m. ET, in the Ovale room of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Montreal.

Gilles Gagnon, President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Jurgen Engel, Executive Vice President, Global R-D and Chief Operating Officer, as well as Dennis Turpin, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer will be highlighting 2004 corporate achievements as well as providing perspectives for 2005.

ABOUT AETERNA ZENTARIS INC.

Aeterna Zentaris Inc. is an oncology and endocrine therapy focused biopharmaceutical company with proven expertise in drug discovery, development and marketing. The Company's broad 20 product pipeline leverages six different therapeutic approaches, including LHRH antagonists and signal transduction inhibitors. The lead LHRH antagonist compound, cetrorelix, is currently marketed for IN VITRO fertilization under the brand name Cetrotide(R). Cetrorelix is also in late-stage clinical development for endometriosis and benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). The lead signal transduction inhibitor compound, perifosine, is a novel, first-in-class, oral anticancer agent that modulates several key signal transduction pathways, including AKT, MAPK, and JNK that have been shown to be critical for the survival of cancer cells. Perifosine has demonstrated single agent anti-tumor activity in Phase I and Phase II studies and is currently being studied as a single agent and in combination with several forms of anti-cancer treatments for various forms of cancer, including non-small cell lung cancer and breast cancer.

Aeterna Zentaris also owns 50.3% of Atrium Biotechnologies Inc. (TSX: ATB.sv), a leading developer, manufacturer and marketer of value-added products for the cosmetics, pharmaceutical, chemical and nutritional industries.

News releases and additional information about Aeterna Zentaris are available on its Web site www.aeternazentaris.com.

AETERNA ZENTARIS

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. 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 others, the availability of funds and resources to pursue R&D projects, the successful and timely completion of clinical studies, the ability of the Company 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.

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CONTACTS

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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.

Date: May 18, 2005

By: /s/ Mario Paradis

Mario Paradis

Senior Finance Director and Corporate Secretary