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ICN PHARMACEUTICALS INC Form DEFA14A May 04, 2001

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant To Section 14(a) Of The Securities Exchange Act Of 1934

Filed by the Registrant [X] Filed by a Party other than the Registrant [_] Check the appropriate box: [_] Preliminary Proxy Statement [_] CONFIDENTIAL, FOR USE OF THE COMMISSION ONLY (AS PERMITTED BY RULE 14A-6(E)(2)) [_] Definitive Proxy Statement [X] Definitive Additional Materials [_] Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-12
ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)
N/A
(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant) Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):
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Following is the text of a press release issued by ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc. on May 4, 2001:

NEWS RELEASE

[LOGO OF ICN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC]

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ICN EXPLORING LICENSING LEVOVIRIN

COSTA MESA, Calif., May 4, 2000 - - ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NYSE: ICN) announced today it is exploring the possibility of licensing its developmental compound Levovirin to a major pharmaceutical company with worldwide marketing and distribution capabilities.

Licensing would enable the compound, if successfully developed and with regulatory clearance, to be marketed by a company with greater worldwide marketing, distribution and sales scope than ICN currently has.

Levovirin, an L-isomer of ribavirin in Phase I clinical trials were initiated in February 2000 for the treatment of hepatitis C. It shows similar immunomodulatory activity to ribavirin but lacks the antiviral activity and side-effect profile of ribavirin.

As previously announced, Schering-Plough has the first and last right of refusal to license Levovirin.

ICN is an innovative, research-based global pharmaceutical company that manufactures markets and distributes a broad range of prescription and non-prescription pharmaceuticals under the ICN brand name. Its therapeutic focus is on anti-infectives, including anti-virals, dermatology and oncology. Additional information is also available on the company's website at http://www.icnpharm.com.

THE SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT UNDER THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995. This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties, including but not limited to, projections of future sales, operating income, returns on invested assets, regulatory approval processes, and other risks detailed from time to time in the Company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

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