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Aeterna Zentaris Inc.  
Form 6-K  
October 22, 2004

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 October 2004

AETERNA ZENTARIS INC.

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(Formerly named AEterna Laboratories 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 October 20, 2004 - AEterna Zentaris to  
      Present at Two Upcoming Conferences in the United States  
      and Germany  
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AEterna Zentaris

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www.aeternazentaris.com

PRESS RELEASE  
For immediate release

AETERNA ZENTARIS TO PRESENT AT TWO UPCOMING CONFERENCES  
IN THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA, OCTOBER 20, 2004 - AEterna Zentaris Inc. (TSX: AEZ; Nasdaq: AEZS) today announced that Gilles Gagnon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, will present a corporate update at the Rodman & Renshaw Techvest 6th Annual Healthcare Conference on Wednesday, October 27, 2004, at 3:30 p.m. ET, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. A live webcast of the presentation will be available at <http://www.aeternazentaris.com/en/page.php?p=56>

Furthermore, on Tuesday, November 9, 2004, at 9:15 a.m. ET, (3:15 p.m. Cologne, Germany), Michel Cousineau, Director, Business Development at AEterna Zentaris, will present a corporate update at Bio Europe which will be held in Cologne, Germany from November 8-10, 2004.

ABOUT AETERNA ZENTARIS INC.

AEterna Zentaris Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company focused in oncology and endocrine therapy. Its extensive portfolio, from drug discovery to marketed products, includes perifosine, an orally-active AKT inhibitor in several Phase II trials for multiple cancers, and cetrorelix, an LHRH antagonist already marketed for IN VITRO fertilization under the brand name Cetrotide(R), and also in advanced clinical development for the treatment of uterine myoma, endometriosis and benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).

AEterna Zentaris also owns 62% of Atrium Biotechnologies Inc., which develops, manufactures and markets active ingredients, specialty fine chemicals, cosmetic and nutritional products for the cosmetics, chemical, pharmaceutical and nutritional industries.

News releases and additional information about AEterna Zentaris are available on its new Web site [www.aeternazentaris.com](http://www.aeternazentaris.com).

AEterna Zentaris

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release contains forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe

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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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#### EUROPE

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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: October 20, 2004  
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By: /s/ Mario Paradis  
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Mario Paradis  
Senior Finance Director and  
Corporate Secretary