NEW YORK CITY PENSION FUNDS SETTLE SECURITIES FRAUD ACTION AGAINST BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB FOR $17.3 MILLION

*SETTLEMENT EXCEEDS THE $1.3 MILLION – OR 10 TIMES THE AMOUNT – THE CITY
WOULD HAVE RECEIVED HAD IT STAYED IN THE FEDERAL CLASS ACTION;
PAYMENT WILL ALSO BE FORTHCOMING IN TWO WEEKS
RATHER THAN AFTER A LENGTHY CLAIMS PROCESS*

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New York, June 2, 2005 – The five New York City pension funds – the Employees Retirement System, the Teachers' Retirement System, the Police Pension Fund, the Fire Department Pension Fund, and the Board of Education Retirement System (collectively often called "the Funds") -- announced today that they reached an agreement with Bristol-Myers Squibb and other defendants on June 1, 2005, to settle for the Funds' securities fraud case pending in the New York Supreme Court, New York County, before Justice Richard Lowe. As a result of the settlement, the Funds will receive a settlement of $17.3 million (inclusive of attorneys' fees and expenses).

This case centered on a widespread accounting fraud at Bristol-Myers from 1999 to 2003, during which time Bristol-Myers stock dropped over $50 per share and which, subsequently, led to a downward restatement of revenues by Bristol-Myers of over $2 billion; SEC and criminal investigations; and the filing of a Federal securities class action in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

The Funds chose to file their own securities fraud case in State court after the class action was dismissed in its entirety for failure to properly allege all the elements of a securities fraud claim. While an appeal of the dismissal was pending, Bristol-Myers settled both the SEC proceedings and the class action. Because the Funds felt they could do better by pursuing their own case against Bristol-Myers and other defendants, they commenced an individual action in State court in September 2004, and they also opted out of the Bristol-Myers Securities Class Action in October 2004. The Funds' litigation decisions concerning how and where to prosecute its Bristol-Myers securities claims have proved fruitful, as the $17.3 million settlement will bring the Funds far more than the estimated approximately $1.3 million they eventually would have received if they had remained class members in the federal securities case.

Bruce E. Stanton, Senior Counsel in the Pensions Division, New York City Law Department, said, "We are pleased with this settlement agreement, which allows the New York City Pension Funds to recover for their members some of the Bristol-Myers Squibb investment losses at levels that represent more than 10 times what the Funds would have recovered if they had remained as class members in the federal securities class action. Another advantage of our settlement is that the Funds will receive payment within the next two weeks, in contrast with class members who will need to wait for a lengthy claims administration process to run its course before they can be paid."

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