

# PRESS RELEASE

## VGX Pharmaceuticals Receives NIH Grant

PHILADELPHIA, May 15, 2003 – VGX Pharmaceuticals is pleased to announce the award of a \$425,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This award will support the five-year research and further development of Novel Vaccines for Smallpox in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania. The five-year grant award amounts to a total of nearly \$2.5 million from the NIH.

Since September 11, 2001, many experts have warned of the threat of a terrorist attack with highly destructive pathogens such as smallpox or anthrax. Given the serious concern over the current Smallpox vaccine's dangerous, sometimes fatal, side effects, the work funded by this grant will focus on the development of safer Smallpox vaccines with minimal side effects.

“I am very pleased to collaborate with VGX Pharmaceuticals on this very important project,” said Dr. David B. Weiner, an Associate Professor at the Pathology Department of the University of Pennsylvania, who is the principal investigator for the project.

VGX Pharmaceuticals is actively engaged in developing a novel class of drugs for the treatment of HIV, cancer, and inflammatory diseases. VGX Pharmaceuticals' particular focus on viral genes, their protein products and human cellular targets provides a platform for the development of potent therapeutics whose mode of action directly impact critical cell functions. VGX Pharmaceuticals' drug discovery and development expertise includes cell and molecular biology, biochemistry, structural biology, chemistry, virology, pathology and pharmacology.

For further information please contact:

VGX Pharmaceuticals

Ernest Shin, VP

3701 Market St., 4th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19104

PH 215.966.6176

E: [shine@vgxp.com](mailto:shine@vgxp.com)