



VGX Pharmaceuticals Announces Filing of IND Application for the treatment of Hepatitis C infection

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VGX Pharmaceuticals announced today that the company has filed an Investigative New Drug application (IND) with U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to initiate Phase II clinical trials of VGX-410C for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C infection (IND #72,963). The company expects to start Phase II clinical trials for VGX-410C by September of 2005.

VGX-410C is an investigational drug for treatment of chronic hepatitis C infection. Currently approved drugs are effective only in about 30% to 50% of patients with chronic hepatitis C infection in the United States. Additionally, those approved drugs are toxic in many patients, resulting in discontinuation of treatment.

“Filing an IND for VGX-410C is a milestone both for VGX Pharmaceuticals and for the treatment of HCV infection,” says J. Joseph Kim, Ph.D., president and CEO of VGX Pharmaceuticals. “VGX-410C represents the first drug in a novel class of HCV IRES inhibitors under development. It is an orally active, small-molecule drug that provides once a day convenience.” VGX-410C prevents HCV replication by suppressing HCV translation and ultimately blocking the HCV replication process. As all the genotypes of HCV use the same pathway, this drug target should be effective for all HCV genotypes. “VGX-410C could make a significant impact for HCV treatment,” said Dr. Kim.

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About VGX Pharmaceuticals

VGX Pharmaceuticals is a biopharmaceutical company with product candidates for the treatment of infectious diseases including HIV, hepatitis C as well as cancer and inflammatory diseases. The Company's clinical development programs include PICTOVIR™ for HIV infection and VGX-410C for chronic hepatitis C virus infection. In addition, VGX Pharmaceuticals' therapeutic platform is designed to advance a strong and continual pipeline of drug candidates into the clinic with novel product candidates to treat cancer and inflammatory diseases. The product candidates and technology programs are protected by the Company's extensive global intellectual property portfolio. More information about VGX can be found at www.vgxp.com.

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