



## **VGX Pharmaceuticals Completes Manufacturing of New Oncology Drug VGX-150 for Phase I Clinical Trials**

**Blue Bell, PA – October 13, 2006 –**

VGX Pharmaceuticals announced today that the manufacturing of clinical drug product has been completed for VGX-150, its lead clinical candidate for the treatment of melanoma. VGX-150 is a novel DNA-based therapy containing Viral protein r (Vpr).

Skin cancer (both non-melanoma and melanoma skin cancer) is the most common of all cancers, accounting for more than 50% of all malignancies. Melanoma is responsible for about 80% of all mortality due to skin. The number of new melanoma cases diagnosed in the United States is increasing; approximately 8,000 people in the US died of melanomas during 2004.

VGX Pharmaceuticals has discovered that specific viral proteins can induce selective apoptosis (programmed cell death) in rapidly dividing cancer cells without affecting normal cells. Pre-clinical studies have shown that Vpr induces tumor death through apoptosis in a variety of established human tumor cells derived from the GI, blood, skin, breast, prostate, brain, and other sources. Vpr-based drugs have also been shown to be effective against drug-resistant cancer cells in preclinical tests, with lower potential toxicity compared to current chemotherapy or radiation therapy. Treatment with VGX-150 DNA plasmid has shown to significantly reduce or eradicate melanoma tumors in mice (Molecular Therapy, 2006).

“This is a major development for the treatment of melanoma as well as for the development of new cancer drugs by VGX,” says J. Joseph Kim, Ph.D., President and CEO of VGX Pharmaceuticals. “VGX-150 is a novel drug candidate with broad anti-cancer properties. VGX-150 has shown therapeutic effects against various human cancer cells in many pre-clinical laboratory models,” said Dr. Kim. “VGX-150 is a first drug in a prolific VGX oncology pipeline including VGX-100 for Stomach Cancer and Lymphoma.”

Toxicity studies for VGX-150 are currently in progress at the University of South Florida. An Investigational New Drug Application (IND) for VGX-150 is expected to be filed and Phase I clinical trials are expected to be initiated in the first quarter of 2007.

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### **About VGX Pharmaceuticals**

VGX Pharmaceuticals is a leading biopharmaceutical company with strong product candidates for the treatment of infectious diseases including HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) as well as cancer and inflammatory diseases. The Company's clinical development programs include PICTOVIR™ for HIV infection and VGX-410C for chronic HCV infection, which are currently in Phase II clinical trials. In addition, a Phase I clinical trial will be initiated in 2007 for the Company's lead cancer drug compound, VGX-150 for the treatment of Melanoma. Moreover, VGX Pharmaceuticals' therapeutic platform is designed to advance a strong and continual pipeline of additional drug candidates into the clinic with VGX-100 for cancer therapy and VGX-1027 and VGX-750 for inflammatory diseases currently in development. 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](http://www.vgxp.com).

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