



## **VGX Pharmaceuticals' SynCon™ Pandemic Flu Vaccine Protects Against A Lethal Challenge of Live Virus in Pre-Clinical Animal Models**

**Blue Bell, PA – November 12, 2007 –**

VGX Pharmaceuticals' SynCon™ pandemic flu DNA vaccines (VGX-3400) provided protection against a lethal challenge of live H5N1 viruses, according to data presented today by Dr. Ruxandra Draghia-Akli at the MVAFA 2007-Modern Vaccines/Adjuvants Formulation Conference in Dublin, Ireland.

Dr. Draghia-Akli, VGX's Vice President of Research, presented study data showing that ferrets treated with VGX's rationally constructed SynCon™ pandemic flu DNA vaccines were fully protected from illness and subsequent death in a challenge using an unmatched Vietnamese strain of avian flu virus. During the experiments, 100% of the ferrets treated with VGX-3400 survived, while 100% of the control animals died. Ferrets represent the most relevant pre-clinical influenza animal model for humans, and data from previous experiments demonstrate that VGX-3400 also protects mice from the unmatched Vietnamese strain of avian flu virus. All vaccines used were delivered with VGX's patented CELLECTRA™ DNA delivery device. The results of both challenges should strongly support an Investigative New Drug (IND) application for VGX-3400, which the Company expects to file by 2Q 2008.

Dr. Draghia-Akli also showed that vaccination with VGX-3400 generated potent neutralizing antibody and cell-mediated immune responses in four separate animal models - mice, ferrets, pigs, and rhesus monkeys. More specifically, VGX-3400 induced protective levels of hemagglutination inhibition (HAI) titers in 100% of the immunized animals for all 4 models. VGX-3400 also induced significant levels of antigen-specific CD8+ killer T cell responses.

"Our data further demonstrates the potential of our DNA vaccine and delivery approaches in addressing a significant global health problem," stated Dr. J. Joseph Kim, President and CEO of VGX. "VGX-3400 is just the first step in executing our strategy for developing a universal flu vaccine."

VGX Pharmaceuticals' SynCon™ DNA vaccine antigens are designed by aligning numerous primary sequences and choosing the most common amino acid or base pair at each site by using high-powered and patented bioinformatics approaches. The SynCon™ DNA vaccines in combination with the CELLECTRA™ delivery device provide greater levels of cross-reactive immune responses than those produced by more traditional vaccines.

Over the years, VGX Pharmaceuticals has also established itself as a leading manufacturer of cGMP-grade DNA plasmids. Most recently, the Company expanded its cGMP manufacturing facility in The Woodlands, Texas to a 500-liter scale and initiated a project to build and operate a 3000-liter cGMP manufacturing facility in Korea with its affiliate, VGX International.

VGX Pharmaceuticals has already initiated IND-enabling pre-clinical toxicology studies for VGX-3400 and two other DNA plasmid-based product candidates: a vaccine for human papilloma virus for the treatment of cervical cancer (VGX-3100) and a therapeutic based on human growth hormone releasing hormone (VGX-3200) for cancer-related cachexia. The Company expects to complete the toxicology studies and to file the INDs for all three products in 2008.

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**About VGX Pharmaceuticals**

VGX Pharmaceuticals is a biopharmaceutical company with small molecule and biologic product candidates for the treatment of infectious diseases, cancer, and inflammatory diseases. The Company's clinical development programs include PICTOVIR™ for HIV infection, which is in Phase II clinical trials, and PENNVAX™-B, a DNA vaccine for preventing HIV infection, which is in Phase I clinical trials. In addition, VGX is planning to initiate Phase I clinical studies for VGX-1027, its lead compound for inflammatory diseases. VGX's research pipeline includes a new generation of SynCon™ DNA vaccines and therapeutics as well as the CELLECTRA™ electroporator, a patented DNA delivery device. 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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