



## **VGX announces publication of preclinical data for the Company's avian flu vaccine candidate in *PLoS ONE* journal**

Blue Bell, PA – June 25, 2008 –

VGX Pharmaceuticals Inc. (VGX) announced today the publication in *PLoS ONE* - an international, peer-reviewed, open-access, online publication - of preclinical data for the Company's preventative DNA vaccine candidate for avian influenza, VGX-3400. The article, titled "Heterosubtypic Protection against Pathogenic Human and Avian Influenza Viruses via In Vivo Electroporation of Synthetic Consensus DNA Antigens", is available at [www.plosone.org/doi/pone.0002517](http://www.plosone.org/doi/pone.0002517).

The highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), or "bird flu", virus is an emerging threat that has killed millions of poultry in a growing number of countries. Health experts are concerned that the co-existence of human flu viruses and avian flu viruses (primarily subtype H5N1) will provide an opportunity for genetic material to be exchanged between species-specific viruses, possibly creating a new virulent influenza strain that is easily transmissible and lethal to humans. The pandemic potential of bird flu highlights the need for novel vaccination techniques that can quickly and effectively respond to emerging viral threats.

This study evaluated the use of optimized consensus (SynCon™) influenza antigens to provide broad protection against divergent strains of H5N1 influenza in mouse, ferret, and non-human primate models. Responses in all three species tested demonstrate the ability of SynCon™ antigens to induce production of protective antibodies capable of providing cross-protection from divergent strains of the H5N1 subtype. Both ferrets and mice vaccinated with the SynCon™ antigens were 100% protected from lethal influenza challenge, with significant reductions in viral shedding and disease progression in vaccinated ferrets. These studies also demonstrated the effective use of the Company's CELLECTRA® constant current electroporation device in combination with the SynCon™ antigens to provide protection in larger animal models.

"Publication of this study emphasizes the potential of VGX technology to improve human health and safety," stated Dr. J. Joseph Kim, President and Chief Executive Officer. "We are optimistic that our novel vaccine program will significantly expand the prevention options for influenza."

VGX Pharmaceuticals is awaiting approval from the Food and Drug Administration to study the avian flu vaccine (VGX-3400) in humans.

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inaccurate assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Many such factors will be important in determining our actual future results. Consequently, no forward-looking statement can be guaranteed, and forward-looking statements may be adversely affected by factors, including general market conditions, competitive product development, product availability, current and future branded and generic competition, federal and state regulations and legislation, manufacturing issues, timing of the elimination of trade buying, patent positions, litigations and investigations. Our actual results may vary materially, and there are no guarantees about the performance or valuation of VGX stock. It is also important to read the disclosure notice contained in many of the individual VGX documents available on this Web site as many contain important information on such cautionary factors as of the date of the individual document. We undertake no obligation to correct or update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. You are advised, however, to consult any further disclosures we make on related subjects in our reports.

### ***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, PENNVAX™-B for HIV infection, which is in 2 separate Phase I clinical trials, and VGX-1027 for inflammatory diseases, which is in Phase I clinical trials. In addition, the Company has filed INDs for VGX-3100, a DNA therapeutic vaccine for cervical cancer; VGX-3200, a novel DNA therapy that utilizes GHRH for the treatment of cancer cachexia and anemia; and VGX-3400, a DNA preventative vaccine for avian influenza. VGX has established a vertically-integrated DNA Vaccines and Therapies Platform with extensive capabilities including SynCon™ DNA-based product candidates, the CELLECTRA® delivery device, and efficient cGMP plasmid manufacturing. Vertical control over key aspects of product development has enabled the Company to consistently develop multiple product candidates, from bench-to-IND filing, within 1 year. 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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