

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INC / MA
Form DEF 14A
April 15, 2010

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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
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Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

April 14, 2010

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2010 annual meeting of shareholders of Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated to be held on Thursday, May 13, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. at our headquarters at 130 Waverly Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

As described in the accompanying notice of annual meeting of shareholders and proxy statement, this year we will ask you and our other shareholders to:

elect three directors to the class of directors whose term will expire in 2013;

approve an amendment to our Amended and Restated 2006 Stock and Option Plan that increases the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance under the plan by 12,000,000 shares, from 21,602,380 shares to 33,602,380 shares; and

ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2010.

Regardless of the number of shares of common stock you may own, your vote is important. **YOU ARE URGED TO VOTE, SIGN, DATE AND MAIL THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD PROMPTLY**, whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting in person. This will ensure your proper representation at the annual meeting.

Thank you for giving these materials your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Emmens
Chairman, President and CEO

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED

130 Waverly Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-4242
Telephone: (617) 444-6100
www.vrtx.com

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

May 13, 2010

Notice hereby is given that the 2010 annual meeting of shareholders of Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. at our headquarters, located at 130 Waverly Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, to:

elect three directors to the class of directors whose term will expire in 2013;

approve an amendment to our Amended and Restated 2006 Stock and Option Plan that increases the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance under the plan by 12,000,000 shares, from 21,602,380 shares to 33,602,380 shares;

ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2010; and

consider and act upon such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting.

Please refer to the accompanying proxy statement for more complete information concerning the matters to be acted upon at the annual meeting.

Holders of record of our common stock at the close of business on March 17, 2010, the record date for the annual meeting, are entitled to vote at the annual meeting and at any postponements or adjournments of the annual meeting. All shareholders are invited to attend the annual meeting in person.

Your vote matters. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, please ensure that your shares are represented by voting, signing, dating and returning your proxy in the enclosed envelope, which requires no postage if mailed in the United States. Holders of record of common stock as of the record date who attend the annual meeting and wish to vote in person may revoke their proxies.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KENNETH S. BOGER
Secretary
April 14, 2010

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED

130 Waverly Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-4242
Telephone: (617) 444-6100
www.vrtx.com

PROXY STATEMENT

2010 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To be held on May 13, 2010

This proxy statement, with the enclosed proxy card, is being furnished to shareholders of Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated in connection with the solicitation by our board of directors of proxies to be voted at our 2010 annual meeting of shareholders and at any postponements or adjournments thereof. The annual meeting will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. at our headquarters, located at 130 Waverly Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

This proxy statement and the enclosed proxy card are first being mailed or otherwise furnished to our shareholders on or about April 16, 2010. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 and materials regarding our company are being mailed to the shareholders with this proxy statement, but are not part of the proxy statement.

VOTING PROCEDURES

Your Vote is Important. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, please take the time to vote by completing and mailing the enclosed proxy card as soon as possible. We have included a postage-prepaid envelope for your convenience.

Who Can Vote? In order to vote, you must have been a shareholder of record at the close of business on the record date, which is March 17, 2010. Shareholders whose shares are owned of record by brokers and other nominees should follow the voting instructions provided by the institution that holds their shares. As of the record date, there were 202,011,502 shares of our common stock issued, outstanding and entitled to vote. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote on each matter to be voted upon.

How Do I Vote? If your shares are held of record in your own name, you may vote by completing and returning the enclosed proxy card by mail or by voting in person at the annual meeting. If your shares are held in the name of a bank, broker or other holder of record, the institution that holds your shares will send you instructions that you must follow in order for your shares to be voted. If your shares are not registered in your own name and you plan to attend the annual meeting and vote your shares in person, you should contact the institution that holds your shares to obtain a broker's proxy card, and bring it to the annual meeting in order to vote.

Voting By Mail and Revocation of Your Proxy. You may vote by mail by completing and returning the enclosed proxy card. Your proxy will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If you do not specify a choice on a proposal described in this proxy statement, your proxy will be voted in favor of that proposal.

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted by delivering a subsequently dated written revocation or proxy to our corporate secretary or by voting in person at the annual meeting.

Voting in Person at the Annual Meeting. If you attend the annual meeting, you may deliver your completed proxy card in person or you may vote by completing a ballot that will be available at the annual meeting.

What Constitutes a Quorum? In order for business to be conducted at the annual meeting, a quorum must be present. A quorum is present if the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock issued and outstanding as of the record date are present at the annual meeting in person or by proxy. Shares of common stock held by a person who is present at the annual meeting in person or by proxy but who abstains or does not vote with respect to one or more of the matters to be voted upon will nonetheless be counted for purposes of determining if a quorum exists. If a quorum is not present, it is expected that the annual meeting will be adjourned until a quorum is obtained.

What Vote is Required to Approve Each Proposal and How are Votes Counted?

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Proposal 1: Election of Directors</i> | The nominees for director who receive the most votes, also known as a "plurality" of the votes, will be elected. Abstentions are not counted for purposes of electing directors. You may vote either FOR or WITHHOLD your vote from any one or more of the nominees. Votes that are withheld will not be included in the vote tally for the election of directors. For this proposal, brokerage firms do not have authority to vote shares of their customers that are held in "street name." Therefore, any shares not voted by a customer will be treated as broker non-votes, and broker non-votes will have no effect on the results of the election of directors. |
| <i>Proposal 2: Amendment to our Amended and Restated 2006 Stock and Option Plan</i> | To be approved, this proposed amendment to our Amended and Restated 2006 Stock and Option Plan must receive an affirmative vote from shareholders present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting representing a majority of the votes cast on the proposed amendment. Abstentions will have no effect on the results of this vote. For this proposal, brokerage firms do not have authority to vote shares of their customers that are held in "street name." Therefore, any shares not voted by a customer will be treated as broker non-votes, and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal. |
| <i>Proposal 3: Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</i> | To be approved, this proposal to ratify our selection of an independent registered public accounting firm must receive an affirmative vote from shareholders present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting representing a majority of the votes cast on the proposal. Abstentions will have no effect on the results of this vote. For this proposal, brokerage firms have authority to vote shares of their customers that are held in "street name." If a broker does not exercise this authority, the resulting broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal. |

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON MAY 13, 2010

This proxy statement and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 are available to holders of record of our common stock at www.envisionreports.com/vrtx and to beneficial holders of our common stock at www.edocumentview.com/vrtx.

**PROPOSAL 1:
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Our board of directors is divided into three classes, the Class I Directors, Class II Directors and Class III Directors, with one class elected each year. Members of each class hold office for a three-year term. Our board currently consists of ten members. Our by-laws provide that our board shall consist of at least three and not more than eleven members, as may be fixed from time to time by our board. The terms of the Class III Directors will expire at the 2010 annual meeting. Dr. Joshua Boger, Dr. Charles A. Sanders and Elaine S. Ullian are current Class III Directors and have been nominated by our board for re-election at the 2010 annual meeting for a three-year term that will expire at the 2013 annual meeting. The terms of the Class I Directors and Class II Directors will expire at the 2011 and 2012 annual meetings, respectively. If any of the nominees for election to our board should, for any reason, be unavailable to serve, proxies will be voted for such other candidate as may be designated by our board, unless our board reduces the number of directors. Our board has no reason to believe that Dr. Boger, Dr. Sanders and Ms. Ullian will be unable to serve if elected.

The corporate governance and nominating committee of our board of directors is responsible for recommending to our board of directors the composition, structure and procedures of our board and for developing criteria for board membership. This committee engages in a regular practice of reviewing director competencies, qualities and experiences, with the goal of ensuring that our board is comprised of an effective team of directors who are able to apply their experience toward meaningful contributions to general corporate strategy and oversight of corporate performance, risk management, organizational development and succession planning.

Accordingly, the corporate governance and nominating committee seeks to recommend for nomination directors of stature who have a substantive knowledge of our business and industry or who can bring to the board specific and valuable strategic or management capabilities acquired in other industries. The corporate governance and nominating committee also seeks personal qualities that foster a respectful environment in which each director can speak with a strong voice and be engaged, constructive and rational. These goals for our board composition presuppose a diverse range of viewpoints, experiences and specific expertise. The corporate governance and nominating committee considers a nominee's personal and business characteristics relative to those of our existing board members, including the type of prior management experience, levels of expertise relevant to our business and its growth stage, prior board service, reputation in the business community, personal characteristics such as gender and race and other factors that the committee believes to be important at the specific point in time when choices for board membership are being made.

The key experience, qualifications, attributes and skills brought by our directors to our board that are important in light of Vertex's business and structure include:

Leadership experience. We believe that directors who have held significant leadership positions over extended periods of time provide our company with special insights. These people generally have a practical understanding of organizations, processes and strategy to drive constructive change and growth in organizations.

Industry knowledge. We seek to have directors with substantive knowledge of the biotechnology, pharmaceutical or related industries. We believe that having a substantial portion of our board of directors comprised of individuals with experience as executives or directors in these industries

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provides our board with the background necessary to provide counsel to our management regarding the particular issues facing our company.

Financial expertise. We believe that an understanding of finance is important for our board of directors, and our budgeting processes and financial and strategic transactions require our directors to be financially knowledgeable. In addition, we seek to have a number of directors qualified to serve on our audit and finance committee and at least one director with in-depth knowledge of financial statements and the financial reporting processes sufficient to qualify as an audit committee financial expert under relevant regulatory standards.

Scientific experience. As a biopharmaceutical company that seeks to be a leading innovator, we also look for directors with backgrounds in science and technology and in particular the research and development of pharmaceutical products.

Commitment to company values and goals. We seek directors who are committed to our company and its values and goals and who value the contributions that can be provided by individuals who believe in the company and its prospects for success.

In each of the director nominee and director biographies that follow, we highlight the specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led the board of directors to conclude that the director nominee or director should serve on our board of directors at this time.

Nominees

Class III Directors Present Terms Expiring In 2010 And Proposed Terms To Expire In 2013

Joshua Boger, Ph.D.

Age: 59

Director since 1989

Dr. Joshua Boger is the founder of Vertex. He was our Chief Executive Officer from 1992 through May 2009. He was our Chair of the Board from 1997 until May 2006 and our President from our inception until December 2000, and from 2005 through February 2009. He was our Chief Scientific Officer from 1989 until May 1992. Prior to founding Vertex in 1989, Dr. Boger held the position of Senior Director of Basic Chemistry at Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories in Rahway, New Jersey, where he headed both the Department of Medicinal Chemistry of Immunology & Inflammation and the Department of Biophysical Chemistry. Dr. Boger served as the chairman of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) from May 2007 to May 2009. Dr. Boger holds a B.A. in chemistry and philosophy from Wesleyan University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry from Harvard University. Dr. Boger is the brother of Mr. Kenneth S. Boger, our Senior Vice President and General Counsel.

Dr. Boger's qualifications for our board include his extensive industry knowledge and leadership experience. In addition to his experience leading our company as CEO for 20 years and his distinguished scientific career, Dr. Boger brings an in-depth knowledge of issues facing our company and our industry as a result of both his experience and continued active participation in various industry-related organizations, including BIO.

Charles A. Sanders, M.D.
Director since 1996

Age: 78

Dr. Sanders has been our lead independent director since May 2009 and also served in that capacity from 2003 through May 2006. He served as our Chair from May 2006 through May 2009. Dr. Sanders retired in 1994 as Chief Executive Officer and in 1995 as Chairman of Glaxo Inc. From 1990 to 1995, he served as a member of the board of Glaxo plc. From 1981 to 1989, Dr. Sanders held a number of positions at Squibb Corporation, including that of Vice Chairman. He is currently a director of Bidel Inc., Biocryst Pharmaceuticals Inc., Cephalon, Inc., and Icagen, Inc.

Dr. Sanders was a member of the Board of Directors of: Genentech, Inc. from 1999 through its acquisition by F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd in March 2009; Fisher Scientific International from 2004 through its merger with Thermo Electron Corporation in November 2006; BioPure Corporation from 1997 through 2007; and Trimeris, Inc. from 1996 through 2006. Dr. Sanders also served in the past on the Board of Directors of Merrill Lynch, Reynolds Metals Co. and Morton International Inc. He had his undergraduate education at the University of Texas, and earned an M.D. from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Sanders' qualifications for our board include his extensive industry knowledge, as well as the leadership experience and financial expertise he acquired in his role as Chief Executive Officer of Glaxo Inc. Dr. Sanders provides strong board leadership based on judgment and collaborative skills informed by experience at high executive levels in the pharmaceutical industry, and by his experience as a board member of significant companies in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology community.

Elaine S. Ullian
Director since 1997

Age: 62

From 1996 through January 2010, Ms. Ullian served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Boston Medical Center, a private, not-for-profit, 626-bed academic medical center with a community-based focus. From 1994 to 1996, she served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Boston University Medical Center Hospital. From 1987 to 1994, Ms. Ullian served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Faulkner Hospital. She also serves as a director of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. and Hologic, Inc. In addition, Ms. Ullian was a member of the Board of Directors of Valeant Pharmaceuticals, Inc. from 2005 through 2007. Ms. Ullian holds a B.A. in political science from Tufts University and an M.P.H. from the University of Michigan.

Our board has concluded that Ms. Ullian is a valuable contributor to our board due to the leadership and management skills she has acquired through her experience as the Chief Executive Officer of a number of large health care providers. This experience also has given her insight into the health care industry from the perspective of providers, payers and patients, who make up the target markets for our drug candidates.

Continuing Members of Our Board of Directors

Class I Directors Terms Expiring In 2011

Stuart J. M. Collinson, Ph.D.
Director since 2001

Age: 50

Dr. Collinson currently serves as a Partner at Forward Ventures, a venture capital firm. Prior to our acquisition of Aurora Biosciences Corporation in 2001, Dr. Collinson served as the President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Aurora Biosciences. Dr. Collinson held senior management positions with Glaxo Wellcome from December 1994 to June 1998, most recently serving as Co-Chairman, Hospital and Critical Care Therapy Management Team and Director of Hospital and Critical Care. Dr. Collinson received his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Oxford, England and his M.B.A. from Harvard University.

Dr. Collinson's prior experience building Aurora Biosciences, along with service as a pharmaceutical executive and in venture capital, provided him with specific biotechnology industry knowledge and strong financial skills, all of which led our board to conclude that he should serve on our board of directors.

Eugene H. Cordes, Ph.D.
Director since 2005

Age: 73

Dr. Cordes has been a scientific advisor to us since 1996. He was the Chairman of Vitae Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a position he held from January 2002 to March 2006. Prior to joining Vitae Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Cordes was a professor of pharmacy at the University of Michigan. Dr. Cordes received a B.S. degree in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Brandeis University.

Our board believes that Dr. Cordes is a valuable member of our board in his role as a distinguished scientist who brings an in-depth understanding of our research and development programs allowing him to effectively contribute to the science and technology committee of the board as well as a strong passion for and commitment to our science.

Matthew W. Emmens
Director since 2004

Age: 58

Mr. Emmens has been our Chairman, President and CEO since May 2009. He became our President in February 2009. Mr. Emmens also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Shire plc, a specialty biopharmaceutical company, and has been a member of Shire's board since March 2003. From March 2003 to June 2008, Mr. Emmens was the Chief Executive Officer of Shire, which had more than 3,400 employees and revenues of \$2.4 billion in 2007. Before joining Shire in 2003, Mr. Emmens served as President of Merck KGaA's global prescription pharmaceuticals business in Darmstadt, Germany. In 1999, he joined Merck KGaA and established EMD Pharmaceuticals, Inc., its United States prescription pharmaceutical business. Mr. Emmens held the position of President and Chief Executive Officer at EMD Pharmaceuticals from 1999 to 2001. Prior to this, Mr. Emmens held various positions, including Chief Executive Officer, at Astra Merck, Inc. as well as several positions at Merck & Co., Inc. Mr. Emmens was a member of the Board of Directors of Incyte Corporation from 2006 through February 2009. He received a B.S. degree in business management from Farleigh Dickinson University.

Mr. Emmens is a valuable member of our board because he provides in-depth knowledge of our company through his day-to-day leadership of our executive team, and because of the strong leadership qualities he developed through his service as the CEO of a number of pharmaceutical and biotechnology organizations including Shire. He also has substantial financial expertise and industry knowledge applicable to the current stage of our business, including significant experience leading commercial organizations.

Class II Directors Terms Expiring in 2012

Roger W. Brimblecombe, Ph.D., D.Sc.
Director since 1993

Age: 80

Dr. Brimblecombe has been a member of the Board of Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Europe) Ltd. since 2005. He served as Chairman of Vanguard Medica plc from 1991 to 2000, of Core Group plc from 1997 to 1999, of Oxford Asymmetry International plc from 1997 to 2000 and of pSivida Ltd. from 2002 to 2007. From 1979 to 1990, he held various Vice Presidential posts in SmithKline & French Laboratories' research and development organization, including Vice President R&D for Europe and Japan. He is currently an advisor to MVM Life Science Partners LLP, a venture capital firm. He holds Ph.D. and D.Sc. degrees in pharmacology from the University of Bristol, England.

Our board believes that Dr. Brimblecombe provides valuable insights to the board through his combined backgrounds in basic science, pharmacology and drug development. His extensive experience with non-U.S. based companies also allows him to bring an international perspective as we evaluate our current and potential future international operations.

Jeffrey M. Leiden, M.D., Ph.D
Director since 2009

Age: 54

Dr. Leiden has more than 20 years of experience in the biomedical and pharmaceutical sectors. Dr. Leiden was President and Chief Operating Officer of Abbott Laboratories, Pharmaceuticals Products Group and a member of the Board of Directors of Abbott Laboratories from 2001 to 2006. From 1987 to 2000, Dr. Leiden held several academic appointments, including as Rawson Professor of Medicine and Pathology and Chief of Cardiology and Director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of Chicago, the Elkan R. Blout Professor of Biological Sciences at the Harvard School of Public Health, and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He is an elected member of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Leiden is a Managing Director at Clarus Ventures, a life sciences venture capital firm he joined in 2006. Dr. Leiden also is a director and the non-executive Vice Chairman of the Board of Shire, and a director of several private biotechnology companies. Dr. Leiden was a member of the Board of Directors of Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. from October 2007 until it was acquired in June 2008. He received both his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago.

Our board determined that Dr. Leiden should serve as a director because he is a distinguished physician, scientist and teacher with a strong background as an executive in the pharmaceutical industry and as a life sciences venture capitalist. Dr. Leiden has significant strategic and biotech investment experience and, as a newer board member, brings a fresh perspective regarding our company.

Bruce I. Sachs
Director since 1998

Age: 50

Mr. Sachs is a General Partner at Charles River Ventures, a venture capital firm he joined in 1999. From 1998 to 1999, he served as Executive Vice President and General Manager of Ascend Communications, Inc. From 1997 until 1998, Mr. Sachs served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Stratus Computer, Inc. From 1995 to 1997, he served as Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Internet Telecom Business Group at Bay Networks, Inc. From 1993 to 1995, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer at Xylogics, Inc. Mr. Sachs was a director of BigBand Networks, Inc. from 2005 through June 2009. Mr. Sachs holds a B.S.E.E. in electrical engineering from Bucknell University, an M.E.E. in electrical engineering from Cornell University, and an M.B.A. from Northeastern University.

Our board believes that Mr. Sachs should serve as a director because of his strong business judgment and financial analytical skills, which are evidenced by his experience developing business strategy at a senior management level and his success in building companies and in venture capital. In addition, Mr. Sachs has extensive business leadership experience including as a former CEO at a high technology company.

Dennis L. Winger
Director since 2009

Age: 62

Mr. Winger has over 30 years of experience as a financial executive, the majority of which has focused on the life sciences industry. He retired in 2008 from Applera Corporation, a life sciences company, where he had been Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since 1997. He was previously Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer at Chiron Corporation. Before joining Chiron, Mr. Winger held various financial executive positions, including Chief Financial Officer of The Cooper Companies, Inc. Mr. Winger is currently a director of the following public companies: Accuray Incorporated; Cephalon Inc.; and Nektar Therapeutics. In addition, Mr. Winger was a member of the Board of Directors of A.P. Pharma, Inc. during 2005 and 2006 and a member of the Board of Directors of Cell Genesys, Inc. from 2004 until its merger with BioSante Pharmaceuticals in October 2009. He holds an M.B.A. from Columbia University Graduate School of Business and he earned his undergraduate degree from Siena College.

Our board of directors determined that Mr. Winger should serve as a director based on his extensive experience as a financial executive in the life sciences industry and his experience as a productive member of the board of directors of several public biopharmaceutical companies. Mr. Winger brings financial expertise to his role as our audit committee financial expert, and as a newer board member brings a fresh perspective on strategic matters facing our company.

Information Regarding Our Board

Our Board

Our board of directors is our company's ultimate decision-making body except with respect to those matters reserved to the shareholders. Our board selects our senior management team, which is charged with the conduct of our business. Having selected our senior management team, our board acts as an advisor and counselor to senior management and oversees its performance. Our board of directors met ten times during 2009. Each of our director nominees and continuing directors attended 75% or more of the board meetings during 2009 that occurred while the director served on our board. Each member of our board is encouraged to attend each annual meeting of our shareholders. All of the directors who were members of the board on the date of our 2009 annual shareholder meeting attended the 2009 annual shareholder meeting.

Independence, Chairman and Lead Independent Director

Our board has determined that eight of our ten directors qualify as "independent" under the definition of that term adopted by The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC. The directors who qualify as independent are Dr. Brimblecombe, Dr. Collinson, Dr. Cordes, Dr. Leiden, Mr. Sachs, Dr. Sanders, Ms. Ullian and Mr. Winger.

Our chief executive officer, Mr. Emmens, also serves as the chair of our board of directors. The chair is elected from time to time by majority vote of the directors then in office. It is our board's policy that any member of the board, including our executives, may serve as the chair of the board. Our board of directors believes at this time that the most effective leadership structure for Vertex is for Mr. Emmens to serve as both chair of the board and chief executive officer.

When the chair of the board is not an independent director, as is the case at the present, our independent directors elect a lead independent director. Our former chair of the board of directors, Dr. Sanders, currently is serving as the lead independent director. In addition to his other responsibilities in calling and leading meetings of the independent directors, which occur on a regular basis, Dr. Sanders in his role as lead independent director serves as a liaison between our management and the independent directors. Dr. Sanders reviews the planned dates for regularly scheduled board meetings and the primary agenda items for each meeting. Mr. Emmens and Dr. Sanders work in tandem to ensure that items pertinent to the advisory and monitoring functions of the board are addressed on meeting agendas and are therefore brought to the board on a regular basis for review and/or decision. Dr. Sanders reviews with the chair of each board committee agenda items that fall within the scope of the responsibilities of that committee. The board believes that this structure allows Vertex to benefit from Mr. Emmens' strong leadership of the board of directors and in-depth knowledge of Vertex while ensuring that the board, through its lead independent director and majority of independent directors, provides effective and independent oversight of our senior management team, business and affairs.

Board Committees

Our board of directors has four standing committees: the corporate governance and nominating committee, the audit and finance committee, the management development and compensation committee, which we refer to as the MDCC, and the science and technology committee. Each of the committees has the authority to engage legal counsel or other experts or consultants, as its members deem appropriate, to carry out the committee's responsibilities. Pursuant to our Statement of Corporate Governance Principles,

our board has determined that each of the corporate governance and nominating committee, the audit and finance committee and the MDCC must consist solely of "independent directors," as that term is defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission and The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC. Each director who served on these committees during 2009 met this independence criteria. We select independent directors as members of these committees with the expectation that they will be free of relationships that might interfere with their exercise of independent judgment. Participation in the science and technology committee is not limited to independent directors.

Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee

Our corporate governance and nominating committee is comprised of Dr. Sanders (Chair), Dr. Cordes and Dr. Leiden. In March 2010, our corporate governance and nominating committee recommended to the board of directors, and the board of directors approved, that effective in May 2010 the members of the corporate governance and nominating committee will be Ms. Ullian (Chair), Dr. Cordes and Mr. Winger.

Pursuant to its charter, the corporate governance and nominating committee:

assists our board of directors in developing and implementing our corporate governance principles;

determines the size and composition of our board and its committees;

monitors a process to assess the effectiveness of our board;

recommends director compensation;

identifies qualified individuals to become members of our board; and

recommends director nominations to the full board.

In 2009, the corporate governance and nominating committee met five times, and each of the members attended at least 75% of the committee meetings that occurred while the member was on the corporate governance and nominating committee.

The corporate governance and nominating committee may consider director candidates recommended by shareholders, as well as recommendations from other sources, such as other directors or officers, third-party search firms or other appropriate sources. Generally, if a shareholder wishes to propose a candidate for consideration as a nominee by the corporate governance and nominating committee, the shareholder should submit any pertinent information regarding the candidate, including biographical information and a statement by the proposed candidate that he or she is willing to serve if nominated and elected, by mail to our corporate secretary at our offices at 130 Waverly Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. If a shareholder wishes to nominate a candidate to be considered for election as a director at the 2011 annual meeting of shareholders using the procedures set forth in our by-laws, the shareholder must follow the procedures described in "Shareholder Proposals for the 2011 Annual Meeting and Nominations for Director" beginning on page 70 of this proxy statement. In general, persons recommended to the corporate governance and nominating committee by shareholders will be considered on the same basis as candidates from other sources.

Audit and Finance Committee

Our audit and finance committee is comprised of Mr. Winger (Chair), Dr. Collinson and Mr. Sachs. Our board has determined that Mr. Winger, an independent director who serves as the chair of our audit

and finance committee, is an "audit committee financial expert," as that term is defined in applicable regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Pursuant to its charter, the primary purposes of the audit and finance committee are to:

assist our board in fulfilling its responsibility for oversight of the quality and integrity of our accounting, auditing and reporting practices; and

review and make recommendations to our board concerning our financial structure and financing strategy.

In addition, our audit and finance committee focuses on the qualitative aspects of our financial reporting to shareholders, on our processes to manage business and financial risk and on compliance with significant applicable legal, ethical and regulatory requirements relating to our financial operations. Our independent registered public accounting firm reports directly and is held accountable to the audit and finance committee in connection with the audit of our annual financial statements and related services. Our audit and finance committee has sole authority over the appointment, compensation and oversight of the work of the independent registered public accounting firm, and where appropriate, the replacement of the independent registered public accounting firm.

In 2009, the audit and finance committee met six times, and each member of the audit and finance committee attended at least 75% of the committee meetings that occurred while the member was on the audit and finance committee. The report of the audit and finance committee appears beginning on page 21 of this proxy statement.

MDCC

The MDCC is comprised of Dr. Brimblecombe (Chair), Mr. Sachs and Ms. Ullian. In March 2010, our corporate governance and nominating committee recommended, and the board of directors approved, that effective in May 2010 the members of the MDCC will be Dr. Leiden (Chair), Mr. Sachs and Dr. Sanders.

Pursuant to its charter, our MDCC:

recommends to our full board the amount, character and method of payment of compensation of all of our executive officers;

plans for the succession of our executives; and

administers our stock and option plans and employee stock purchase plan.

See *Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis* below for a discussion of the MDCC's role in recommending executive compensation.

In 2009, the MDCC met nine times, and each member of the MDCC attended at least 75% of the committee meetings that occurred while the member was on the MDCC. The report of the MDCC appears at page 38 of this proxy statement.

Science and Technology Committee

The science and technology committee is comprised of Dr. Cordes (Chair), Dr. Boger, Dr. Brimblecombe and Dr. Collinson. Dr. Leiden will join the committee in May 2010. The science and technology committee discharges our board's responsibilities relating to the oversight of our investment in

pharmaceutical research and development. In furtherance of that oversight function, the science and technology committee:

reviews and assesses our current and planned research and development programs and technology initiatives from a scientific perspective;

assesses the capabilities of our key scientific personnel and the depth and breadth of our scientific resources;

provides strategic advice to our board regarding emerging science and technology issues and trends; and

periodically reviews our patent portfolio and strategy.

In 2009, the science and technology committee met four times, and each member of the science and technology committee attended at least 75% of the committee meetings that occurred while the member was on the science and technology committee.

Corporate Governance Principles

Our governance practices are documented in our Statement of Corporate Governance Principles, which addresses the role and composition of our board and the functioning of the board and committees of our board. You can learn more about our current corporate governance principles and review our Statement of Corporate Governance Principles, committee charters, and Code of Conduct and Ethics at www.vrtx.com under "Finances/Investor Info Corporate Governance Governance Documents."

Risk Management

Our board of directors discharges its overall responsibility to oversee risk management with a focus on our most significant risks. With respect to each of our drug development and commercialization programs, we face considerable risk that the program will not ultimately result in a commercially successful pharmaceutical product. While our top priority is to successfully complete the development and commercialization of telaprevir, we continue to invest significant resources in research programs and early-stage and mid-stage clinical development programs as part of our strategy to develop drug candidates in therapeutic areas with significant unmet need. The strategic and operational risks related to our research and development programs are regularly presented to the board and discussed with management at board meetings, through presentations to the board and its committees by our executive officers as well as during in-depth short- and long-term strategic reviews held at least annually.

For certain specific risk types, our board of directors has delegated oversight responsibility to board committees as follows:

Our audit and finance committee oversees our risk policies and processes related to quality and integrity of our accounting, auditing and reporting practices, including our audited and unaudited financial statements and internal controls. The audit and finance committee focuses on our financial structure and financing strategy and reviews and makes recommendations to our board with respect to liquidity risks. The audit and finance committee also is responsible for addressing risks arising from related party transactions.

Our MDCC monitors the risks associated with our compensation policies and management resources, structure, succession planning, development and selection processes.

Our corporate governance and nominating committee oversees risks related to the company's governance structure and litigation exposure.

Policy with Respect to the Election of Directors

Our board's policy with respect to the election of directors by shareholders is that any nominee for director in an uncontested election who receives a greater number of votes "withheld" than votes "for" the nominee's election should promptly tender his or her resignation to the chair of our board following certification of the shareholder vote. Our corporate governance and nominating committee will promptly consider the tendered resignation. Based on all factors it deems in its discretion to be relevant, the committee will recommend that our board either accept or reject the resignation or take some other action. Our board will act on the corporate governance and nominating committee's recommendation, and may either accept or reject the tendered resignation and may also adopt measures designed to address any issues perceived to underlie the election results. Following our board's decision on the corporate governance and nominating committee's recommendation, we will promptly disclose our board's decision, including, if applicable, the reasons for rejecting the tendered resignation. Any director whose resignation is being considered under this policy will not participate in the corporate governance and nominating committee or board considerations, recommendations or actions with respect to the tendered resignation.

Board Recommendation

Our board of directors recommends that our shareholders vote FOR the election of each of the nominees to the board. A plurality of the votes cast in person or by proxy at the annual meeting is required to elect each nominee as director.

**PROPOSAL 2:
AMENDMENT TO AMENDED AND RESTATED 2006 STOCK AND OPTION PLAN**

In 2006, our board of directors adopted and our shareholders approved our 2006 Stock and Option Plan, or 2006 Plan, which was amended and restated in 2008 and further amended in 2009. In February 2010, our board approved an amendment to the 2006 Plan increasing the number of shares authorized for issuance under the 2006 Plan by 12,000,000 shares to 33,602,380 shares, subject to shareholder approval.

The purpose of the 2006 Plan is to provide opportunities for ownership of shares of our common stock by our employees, directors, consultants and advisors in order to attract and induce them to work for our benefit and to provide additional incentive for them to promote our success. Our board of directors believes that our equity compensation program is an essential tool to attract, retain and motivate individuals with the requisite experience and ability to advance our company's interests.

We are submitting this amendment to increase the number of shares authorized for issuance under the 2006 Plan by 12,000,000 shares to our shareholders at the 2010 annual meeting as required under applicable rules of The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC. In addition, this amendment to the 2006 Plan is being submitted to our shareholders to ensure (i) favorable federal income tax treatment under Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, for any grants of incentive stock options that we may make under the 2006 Plan and (ii) continued eligibility under Rule 162(m) of the Code to receive a federal income tax deduction with respect to compensation earned upon exercise of options under our 2006 Plan.

As of March 17, 2010, there were 3,837,016 shares remaining available for award under our 2006 Plan. No additional awards may be granted under our other stock and option plans. We believe that we need the additional 12,000,000 shares in order to support our equity incentive programs. We believe these programs are necessary to retain and motivate current employees and to attract qualified employees to work for us in a projected high growth environment.

As of March 17, 2010, options to purchase an aggregate of 14,371,864 shares having a weighted-average exercise price of \$32.77 and a weighted-average term before expiration of 8.33 years were outstanding under our 2006 Plan, and options to purchase an aggregate of 6,754,490 shares having a weighted-average exercise price of \$30.73 and a weighted-average term before expiration of 3.22 years were outstanding under our other stock and option plans. Also on March 17, 2010, there were outstanding an aggregate of 1,901,800 unvested shares of restricted stock and shares subject to restricted stock units granted under the 2006 Plan, and an additional 2,461 unvested shares of restricted stock granted under our other stock and option plans.

On April 13, 2010, the last sales price for our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market was \$40.01 per share.

The principal features of the 2006 Plan are set forth below. A copy of the Amended and Restated 2006 Plan, including Amendment No. 3, which would become effective upon shareholder approval of this proposal, is attached to this proxy statement as Appendix A.

Summary Description of the 2006 Plan

Administration by the MDCC and Eligibility for Participation

The 2006 Plan is administered by our board of directors or any committee to which it delegates all or a part of its administrative responsibilities under the 2006 Plan. Our board of directors has delegated the

administration of the 2006 Plan to the MDCC. Subject to the provisions of the 2006 Plan, the MDCC has the authority to determine the persons to whom awards under the 2006 Plan will be granted, the number of shares to be covered by each award, the exercise price per share and the manner of exercise, and the terms and conditions upon which awards are granted, to accelerate the vesting or extend the date of exercise of any installment of any award, and to interpret the provisions of the 2006 Plan. Awards may be granted under the 2006 Plan to our employees, including officers and directors who are employees, and to our consultants, advisors and non-employee directors. As of March 17, 2010, we and our subsidiaries had 1,425 employees eligible to participate in the 2006 Plan.

Description of Awards

The 2006 Plan provides for the award of stock options, stock grants, and other stock-based awards. The 2006 Plan also provides that on or after May 15, 2008 only 20% of shares available including shares that become available through the cancellation of outstanding options or through the repurchase of restricted stock at cost may be granted as any type of award other than a stock option award.

Stock Options

Stock options granted under the 2006 Plan may be awarded as either incentive stock options within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code, referred to as ISOs, or as non-qualified options. Stock options provide award recipients with the right, subject to the terms and conditions that are specified in connection with the option grant, to purchase a specified number of shares of our common stock at a specified exercise price. Only our employees are eligible to receive ISOs. The maximum value of shares of common stock determined at the time of grant that may be subject to ISOs that become exercisable by an employee in any one year is limited to \$100,000. Stock options granted under the 2006 Plan may not be granted with an exercise price that is less than the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. ISOs may not be granted with an exercise price that is less than 110% of fair market value in the case of employees or officers holding 10% or more of our voting stock. ISOs granted under the 2006 Plan must expire not more than ten years from the date of grant, and not more than five years from the date of grant in the case of ISOs granted to an employee or officer holding 10% or more of our voting stock. No participant may be granted options and stock-based awards in any calendar year for more than 700,000 shares, subject to adjustment for stock splits and similar recapitalizations.

Options granted under the 2006 Plan are exercisable during the optionholder's lifetime only by the optionholder and are not transferable except by the laws of descent and distribution or pursuant to qualified domestic relations orders or Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

The 2006 Plan provides specifically for option grants to non-employee directors under our director compensation program. On the date of initial election to our board of directors, each newly elected non-employee director will automatically be granted a non-qualified stock option to purchase a specified number of shares of common stock determined from time to time by our board of directors at an exercise price equal to 100% of the fair market value per share of our common stock on the date of grant, vesting in equal quarterly installments over a period of four years from the date of grant. Currently, a newly elected non-employee director receives an option to purchase 30,000 shares of our common stock. In addition, each non-employee director serving in office on June 1 of any year is granted a fully vested non-qualified stock option to purchase a specified number of shares determined from time to time by our board of directors. The chair of our board, if the chair is an independent director, or the lead independent director, if the chair is not an independent director, receives an additional grant on June 1, in each case at an

exercise price equal to 100% of the fair market value per share of our common stock on the date of grant. Currently, the June 1 annual grant for each director is for 20,000 shares of common stock, and the additional grant to the chair or lead independent director is for 20,000 shares of common stock. These options are fully exercisable immediately and have a term of ten years.

The 2006 Plan permits the MDCC to determine the manner of payment of the exercise price of options. Such methods include payment by cash, by check, by means of a broker-assisted "cashless exercise," by surrender to us of shares of our common stock, by any combination of such methods, or by any other lawful means, other than delivery of a promissory note, approved by the MDCC.

Stock Grants

A stock grant is an award of shares of common stock. Stock grants may be issued subject to restrictions on transfer and vesting requirements, as determined by the MDCC. Vesting requirements may take the form of our lapsing right to repurchase the stock from the award recipient, based on either continued employment for specified time periods or on the attainment of specified business performance goals set by our board of directors or the MDCC. Subject to the transfer restrictions and our repurchase rights, if any, the grantee will have all rights with respect to unvested shares of common stock issued under a stock grant as are possessed by our other shareholders, including all voting and dividend rights.

Stock-Based Awards

The 2006 Plan provides that the MDCC may grant other stock-based awards, including share grants based upon specified conditions, the grant of securities convertible into shares, or the grant of stock appreciation rights, phantom stock awards or stock units, in each case upon terms and conditions established by the MDCC.

Adjustments in the Event of Stock Dividends, Stock Splits, Recapitalizations or Reorganizations

The number of shares subject to stock rights and other terms applicable to such rights will be equitably adjusted if we issue a stock dividend, or in the event of a stock split, recapitalization or reorganization. In addition, in the event of certain consolidations or acquisitions or a sale of substantially all of our assets, either (i) the MDCC or the entity assuming our obligations under the 2006 Plan shall make appropriate provision for the continuation of all outstanding stock rights under the 2006 Plan or grant replacement stock rights on an equitable basis as determined by the MDCC or the relevant entity, or (ii) the vesting of all outstanding and unvested stock rights under the 2006 Plan will be accelerated and such stock rights will become fully exercisable immediately prior to such consolidation, acquisition or sale.

Effective Date, Amendment and Expiration

The 2006 Plan originally was adopted by our board of directors on March 29, 2006 and will terminate on March 28, 2016. Our board of directors may terminate or amend the 2006 Plan at any time, subject to shareholder approval under certain circumstances as provided in the 2006 Plan. No amendment or termination of the 2006 Plan will adversely affect the rights provided in any award made under the 2006 Plan prior to the plan amendment or termination. No award may be made under the 2006 Plan after the plan expiration date. Awards made prior to expiration of the plan may extend beyond the plan expiration date.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences

The discussion of federal income tax consequences that follows is based on an analysis of the Code as currently in effect, existing law, judicial decisions and administrative regulations and rulings, all of which are subject to change, and is applicable to optionees who are U.S. taxpayers.

Non-Qualified Stock Options. Options that are designated as non-qualified options are not intended to qualify for treatment under Section 422 of the Code. Options otherwise qualifying as ISOs, to the extent the aggregate fair market value of shares with respect to which such options are first exercisable by an individual in any calendar year exceeds \$100,000, also will be treated as options that are not ISOs.

A non-qualified option ordinarily will not result in income to the optionee or a deduction for us for tax purposes at the time of grant. Instead, the optionee will recognize compensation income at the time of exercise of a non-qualified option in an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares at the time of exercise over the option exercise price. Any compensation income may be subject to withholding taxes, and a deduction may then be allowable to us in an amount equal to the optionee's compensation income.

An optionee's initial basis in shares so acquired will be the amount paid on exercise of the non-qualified option plus the amount of any corresponding compensation income. Any gain or loss as a result of a subsequent disposition of the shares so acquired will be capital gain or loss.

Incentive Stock Options. ISOs are intended to qualify for treatment under Section 422 of the Code. An ISO does not result in taxable income to the optionee or a deduction for us at the time it is granted or exercised, provided that the optionee does not dispose of the shares acquired pursuant to the option either within two years after the date of grant of the option or within one year after the shares are issued, referred to as the ISO holding period. However, the difference between the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise and the option price will be an item of tax preference that is included in alternative minimum taxable income. Upon disposition of the shares after the expiration of the ISO holding period, the optionee generally will recognize long-term capital gain or loss based on the difference between the disposition proceeds and the option price paid for the shares. If the shares are disposed of prior to the expiration of the ISO holding period, the optionee generally will recognize taxable compensation, and we will have a corresponding deduction, in the year of the disposition, equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise of the option over the option price. Any additional gain realized on the disposition normally will constitute capital gain. If the amount realized upon such a disqualifying disposition is less than fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise, the amount of compensation income will be limited to the excess of the amount realized over the optionee's adjusted basis in the shares.

Stock Grants. With respect to stock grants that result in the issuance of shares that are either not restricted as to transferability or not subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, the grantee must generally recognize ordinary income equal to the fair market value of shares received. Thus, deferral of the time of issuance generally will result in the deferral of the time the grantee will be liable for income taxes with respect to such issuance. We generally will be entitled to a deduction in an amount equal to the ordinary income recognized by the grantee.

With respect to stock grants involving the issuance of shares that are restricted as to transferability and subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, the grantee generally must recognize ordinary income equal to the fair market value of the shares received at the time the shares become transferable or are not subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, whichever occurs earlier. A grantee may elect to be taxed at the time of

receipt of shares rather than upon lapse of restrictions on transferability or substantial risk of forfeiture, but if the grantee subsequently forfeits such shares, the grantee would not be entitled to any tax deduction, including as a capital loss, for the value of the shares on which the grantee previously paid tax. The grantee must file any such election with the Internal Revenue Service within 30 days of the receipt of the shares. We generally will be entitled to a deduction in an amount equal to the ordinary income recognized by the grantee.

New Plan Benefits

Amounts of future grants under the 2006 Plan are not currently determinable because awards under the 2006 Plan will be granted at the sole discretion of the MDCC, or other delegated persons, and we cannot determine at this time either the persons who will receive future awards under the 2006 Plan or the amount or types of any such awards.

Board Recommendation

Our board of directors recommends a vote FOR the approval of the amendment to our Amended and Restated 2006 Stock and Option Plan to increase the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance by 12,000,000. The affirmative vote by the holders of a majority of the votes cast in person or by proxy on this matter is required for the approval of this proposal.

EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

The following table provides aggregate information with respect to all of our equity compensation plans in effect as of December 31, 2009.

| Plan Category | Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options | Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options | Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (excluding securities reflected in first column) |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Equity Compensation Plans Approved by Shareholders (1) | 17,448,840 | \$ 32.54 | 7,976,534 |
| Equity Compensation Plans Not Approved by Shareholders (2) | 1,489,144 | \$ 12.23 | 0 |
| Total (3) | 18,937,984 | \$ 30.94 | 7,976,534 |

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- (1) These plans consist of our 1991 Stock Option Plan, our 1994 Stock and Option Plan, the 2006 Plan and our Employee Stock Purchase Plan, and awards granted under our 1996 Stock and Option Plan for which we obtained shareholder approval.
- (2) This category consists of certain options issued under our 1996 Stock and Option Plan for which we were not required to and did not obtain shareholder approval.
- (3) This table does not include options outstanding on December 31, 2009 to purchase an aggregate of 293,741 shares of our common stock at a weighted-average exercise price of \$59.40 that were assumed by us in connection with our acquisition of Aurora Biosciences Corporation on July 18, 2001.

Please refer to Note C, "Common and Preferred Stock," to the consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 19, 2010, for a description of the material features of the 1996 Stock and Option Plan.

**PROPOSAL 3:
RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Our audit and finance committee is responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of our independent registered public accounting firm. Our audit and finance committee appointed Ernst & Young LLP to perform the independent audit, review and attestation services with respect to our financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 and has appointed Ernst & Young LLP to perform these services for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010.

If this proposal is not approved at the annual meeting, our audit and finance committee will reconsider the selection of Ernst & Young LLP for the ensuing fiscal year, but may determine that continued retention of Ernst & Young LLP is in our company's and our shareholders' best interests. Even if the appointment is ratified, the audit and finance committee, in its discretion, may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in our company's and our shareholders' best interests.

We expect representatives of Ernst & Young LLP to be present at the annual meeting. They will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and will also be available to respond to appropriate questions from shareholders.

Board Recommendation

Our board of directors recommends that our shareholders vote FOR ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2010. The affirmative vote by the holders of a majority of the votes cast in person or by proxy on this matter is required for the approval of this proposal.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Policy on Audit and Finance Committee Pre-approval of Audit and Permissible Non-audit Services of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Our audit and finance committee has established a policy to pre-approve all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by our independent registered public accounting firm. Prior to the engagement of the firm for each year's audit, management submits to our audit and finance committee for approval a description of services expected to be rendered during that year for each of the following four categories of services and a budget for those services in the aggregate.

Audit services include audit work performed in the preparation of financial statements, as well as work that generally only our independent registered public accounting firm can reasonably be expected to provide, including comfort letters, statutory audits, consents and attestation services.

Audit-related services are for assurance and related services that traditionally are performed by the independent registered public accounting firm, including due diligence related to mergers and acquisitions, employee benefit plan audits, special procedures required to meet certain regulatory requirements and consultation regarding financial accounting and/or reporting standards.

Tax services include all services performed by the independent registered public accounting firm's tax personnel except those services specifically related to the audit of the financial statements, and include fees in the areas of tax compliance, tax planning and tax advice.

All other fees are those associated with services not captured in the other categories.

Prior to engagement, our audit and finance committee pre-approves these services by category of service. The fees are budgeted and our audit and finance committee requires the independent registered public accounting firm and management to report actual fees versus the budget periodically throughout the year by category of service. During the year, circumstances may arise when it may become necessary to engage the independent registered public accounting firm for additional services not contemplated in the original pre-approval. In those instances, our audit and finance committee requires that we obtain specific pre-approval for these services.

The audit and finance committee may delegate pre-approval authority to one or more of its members. The member to whom such authority is delegated must report any pre-approval decisions to our audit and finance committee at its next scheduled meeting for informational purposes.

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm Fees

Aggregate fees billed to us for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 by our independent registered public accounting firm Ernst & Young LLP were as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Audit fees: | \$ 1,080,499 | \$ 940,093 |
| Audit-related fees: | 285,569 | 175,000 |
| Tax fees: | 43,145 | 95,810 |
| All other fees: | 945 | |
| Total | \$ 1,410,158 | \$ 1,210,903 |

"Audit fees" represented the aggregate fees billed to us for professional services rendered for the audit of our annual consolidated financial statements, and our internal controls over financial reporting, for the reviews of the consolidated financial statements included in our Form 10-Q filings for each fiscal quarter, for statutory audits of our international operations, consents, preparation of comfort letters and providing consents with respect to registration statements.

"Audit-related fees" consisted principally of fees for accounting consultations, including consultations regarding our acquisition of ViroChem Pharma Inc.

"Tax fees" consisted of fees related to tax compliance and tax advice.

"All other fees" consisted of licensing fees paid to Ernst & Young LLP for access to its proprietary accounting research database.

None of the services set forth above in the categories "audit-related fees," "tax fees" and "all other fees" were approved by our audit and finance committee pursuant to Rule 2-01(c)(7)(i)(C), which relates to the approval of a *de minimis* amount of non-audit services after the fact but before completion of the audit.

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit and Finance Committee of the Board of Directors (the "Audit Committee") of Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated (the "Company"), which consists entirely of directors who meet the independence and experience requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission and The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC, has furnished the following report:

The Audit Committee assists the Company's Board of Directors in overseeing and monitoring the integrity of the Company's financial reporting process, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements related to financial reporting and the quality of internal and external audit processes. The committee's roles and responsibilities are set forth in a written charter, which is available on the Company's website www.vrtx.com under "Finances/Investor Info Corporate Governance Governance Documents." Among its duties, the Audit Committee is responsible for recommending to the Company's Board of Directors that the Company's financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K. As a basis for that recommendation, the Audit Committee engaged in the following activities. First, the Audit Committee discussed with Ernst & Young LLP ("Ernst & Young"), the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for 2009, those matters that Ernst & Young is required to communicate to and discuss with the Audit Committee by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) Auditing Standard AU Section 380 (The Auditor's Communication With Those Charged With Governance), which included information regarding the scope and results of the audit. These communications and discussions are intended to assist the Audit Committee in overseeing the financial reporting and disclosure process. Second, the Audit Committee discussed with Ernst & Young the firm's independence, and received from Ernst & Young the written disclosures and the letter concerning independence as required by Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Ethics and Independence Rule 3526 (Communication with Audit Committees Concerning Independence). This discussion and disclosure informed the Audit Committee of Ernst & Young's relationships with the Company and was designed to assist the Audit Committee in considering Ernst & Young's independence. Finally, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed, with Ernst & Young and with the Company's management, the Company's audited consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2009, and the Company's consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive loss, shareholders' equity and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2009, including the notes thereto.

Management of the Company is responsible for the consolidated financial statements and reporting process, including establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e)); establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f)); evaluating the effectiveness of disclosure controls and procedures; evaluating the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting; and evaluating any change in internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, internal control over financial reporting. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of these consolidated financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, as well as expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting.

During 2009, management tested and evaluated the Company's system of internal control over financial reporting in response to the requirements set forth in Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and related regulations. At the conclusion of the process, management provided the Audit Committee with a report on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, which the Audit Committee reviewed. The Audit Committee also reviewed the report of management

contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as Ernst & Young's Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K. The latter reports relate to Ernst & Young's audit of (i) the consolidated financial statements and (ii) the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting.

Based on the discussions with Ernst & Young concerning the audit, the independence discussions, and the discussions with the Company's management and Ernst & Young concerning the financial statement review and discussions, and such other matters deemed relevant and appropriate by the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee recommended to the Company's Board of Directors that the consolidated financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009. This report is provided by the following independent directors, who comprise the Audit Committee:

Dennis L. Winger (Chair)
Stuart J. M. Collinson
Bruce I. Sachs

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Overview

We are in the business of discovering, developing and commercializing small molecule drugs for the treatment of serious diseases. Our core purpose is to innovate to transform lives with new medicines, which we believe will create long-term value for our shareholders. We are in a period of rapid expansion because we are preparing for the possible launch and commercialization of telaprevir, our lead drug candidate for the treatment of hepatitis C virus, or HCV, infection. Our goal is to become a fully-capable biopharmaceutical company with industry-leading capabilities in research, development and commercialization of innovative drugs.

We have built, and expect to continue to build, an executive leadership team with the expertise and experience that we need as we expand our capabilities in late-stage drug development, drug supply, registration and commercialization of pharmaceuticals. The market for these individuals is very competitive, particularly at this stage in our growth. Many of the companies with which we compete for executive talent are much larger and better financed than we are, with longer corporate histories, and thus may appear to present a lower risk than we do. In order to attract and retain talented executives, we provide shorter-term compensation elements that rival those of our competitors, such as base salary, a performance-based annual cash bonus opportunity, and a generous benefits program. However, we also try to conserve our cash resources, because we require significant amounts of capital to fund our operations and are not yet profitable. We do not fund expensive perquisites for our executives. Our compensation program anticipates that a significant portion of each executive's annual compensation will be in the form of stock option grants and restricted stock grants that vest over time, or upon achievement of pre-determined goals. This program is designed to provide a significant return to our employees if we are successful, in part to balance the perception of higher risk. We expect the value of these grants to reflect our performance over the longer term. We believe that including equity-based awards in our compensation program attracts and motivates executives to set and achieve goals that drive us to long-term success.

Executive Summary

Compensation Objective and Philosophy: The objective of our executive compensation program is to attract, retain and motivate talented, experienced leaders who will be responsible for executing our business plan. We regularly review our compensation philosophy, elements and amounts, and make adjustments as changing circumstances require. Our philosophy is that the compensation paid to executives should:

reward desired performance and behaviors;

be competitive in amount relative to compensation paid by the companies that compete with us for executive talent; and

reflect a balance of elements so that a significant portion is bonus or equity-based and therefore "at-risk," to better align the executives' financial interests with the interests of our shareholders.

Compensation Elements: The elements of our annual executive compensation program are:

base salary;

annual cash bonus;

stock option grants;

restricted stock grants; and

health insurance and other benefits available to all our employees, including matching payments under our 401(k) plan and payment of life insurance premiums.

We set target levels for cash bonuses and equity awards at amounts designed to make us competitive for talent. Each executive's annual cash bonus and equity awards are then adjusted from target levels, as appropriate, on the basis of company and individual performance for the prior year. The application of these "performance-multipliers" can result in compensation that is significantly lower or higher than target levels, which we believe provides a meaningful performance incentive.

We also occasionally make supplemental grants of restricted stock or stock options to our executive officers, as business needs dictate. When we hire new executives, we typically pay sign-on cash bonuses, award new-hire grants of restricted stock and stock options and reimburse moving expenses. We also have entered into employment contracts providing for severance and change-of-control payments with each of the members of our executive team, including all of the named executive officers, because we believe that they are a fair and effective way to maintain focus on our business in the face of market and other volatility in our industry.

Compensation Decision-Making Process: The MDCC oversees the design, development and implementation of the compensation program for all of our executive officers. Compensation decisions generally are made on an annual basis, in all cases by our board of directors on the basis of recommendations from the MDCC. The board of directors sets performance goals for the company and salaries for the executives early each year. Then, shortly after the end of that year the board of directors assigns performance ratings and awards bonuses and equity grants, in each case at a regularly-scheduled meeting. In formulating its recommendations, the MDCC consults with members of our human resources department, particularly our vice president of compensation and benefits, and engages independent consultants to advise it on specific matters when it deems it appropriate. The MDCC reviews and may recommend that the board of directors adjust compensation elements or amounts throughout the year. In 2009, the MDCC engaged Hewitt Associates to conduct a review of available compensation data from comparator group companies to consider whether or not adjustments to the salaries, target levels of cash and equity compensation, or performance-based adjustment factors used in our compensation program were warranted. In early 2009, the MDCC also engaged Hewitt to advise generally with respect to an employment arrangement with Matthew W. Emmens. Mr. Emmens began employment with us as our president in February 2009, and became our president, chairman and chief executive officer on May 23, 2009. Hewitt's engagement included advice with respect to CEO compensation generally, as well as proposed revisions to the composition of our comparator company group, as discussed more fully under the heading *Compensation Decision-Making Process Analysis of Compensation Practices of Comparator Companies*.

The materials that management provides to the MDCC often include recommendations with respect to compensation levels and performance ratings, which the MDCC considers but does not view as

determinative. Final compensation decisions are approved by our full board of directors, after discussion of the MDCC's recommendations. Mr. Emmens, our chief executive officer, discusses his performance with the MDCC, but does not participate in board decisions regarding his own compensation.

Detailed Analysis and Discussion

Elements of Compensation

The elements of our annual executive compensation program are base salary, annual cash bonus, stock option grants, restricted stock grants, and health and other benefits available to all our employees, including matching payments under our 401(k) plan and payment of life insurance premiums. Each year we review the balance of the elements of our executive compensation program to ensure that we have appropriately designed each element in light of our goals of aligning the program with our shareholders' interests, the competitive environment and our business strategy. We expect that we may adjust our approach to some or all of these elements over time as our company and our business evolve.

Base Salary

The MDCC reviews the executive officers' base salary levels each calendar year in conjunction with our annual performance review process, which is described more fully below under the heading *Performance-Based Elements of Compensation Annual Cash Bonus and Equity Awards*.

The MDCC currently recommends base salaries for each of our executive officers on the basis of a market analysis, on a position-by-position basis. Annually, the MDCC reviews tables showing a comparison of each executive's prior year base salary and bonus opportunity, at the target level, to salaries and bonuses reported for executives with similar responsibilities at specified comparator companies. For a discussion of our practices in selecting comparator companies, the identity of our comparator companies, and our use of comparative compensation data, see the discussion below at *Compensation Decision-Making Process Analysis of Compensation Practices of Comparator Companies*. We do not benchmark to a particular level of compensation relative to compensation levels at the comparator companies. Instead, we make a subjective judgment about where each executive should fall in comparison with executives with similar responsibilities at the comparator companies, taking into account the executive's general level of experience and capability, the significance of his or her job responsibilities to achievement of our business strategy and company goals, and general performance over time, including demonstration of the values and desirable behaviors under our core values program. On the basis of that information, and taking into consideration the executive's base salary for the previous year, the MDCC independently determines an appropriate salary for each named executive officer.

In each year from 2008 to 2010, the MDCC has recommended that the named executives' base salaries be increased early in the year by 3%, to roughly account for any increases in the cost-of-living, with the intention of further reviewing base salary levels later in each year when relevant executive compensation data from comparator companies for the prior year becomes available. In January 2009, the MDCC increased Dr. Boger's base salary for the period from February 2009, when Mr. Emmens joined us as president, until May 2009, when Dr. Boger was to step down as CEO, to \$950,151, which was the midpoint of the range for CEOs in our comparator company group, because the MDCC believed it was appropriate to set Dr. Boger's salary with reference to the comparator group company CEOs, as it did when establishing Mr. Emmens' salary, and that it would be inappropriate, given Dr. Boger's experience and performance in 2009, as well as during the life of the company, to set his salary lower than the

midpoint. Believing as a result of ongoing negotiations that a higher base salary would be required to attract Mr. Emmens to join Vertex, the MDCC agreed to a base salary of \$1,100,000 for Mr. Emmens, putting his total cash compensation near the top of the range for comparator company CEOs. At its regularly scheduled July 2009 meeting, the MDCC also conducted a review of the base salaries for the named executive officers but made no changes, except that the MDCC recommended an increase in Dr. Mueller's base salary to \$550,000 in connection with his taking on additional responsibility for our drug development organization as well as early research and drug discovery. In making this determination, the MDCC was provided and considered comparator group proxy data, industry survey data, the levels of named executives' salaries relative to one another, and management's recommendation, as prepared by our vice president of compensation and benefits. In December 2009, when we hired Nancy J. Wysenski to join us as executive vice president and chief commercial officer, the board of directors approved her starting base salary of \$460,000, which was negotiated as part of her initial employment agreement. In February 2010, a 3% pay raise for the named executives resulted in establishment of base salaries for the other named executives as follows: Mr. Emmens, \$1,133,000; Mr. Smith, \$477,405; Dr. Mueller, \$566,500; and Mr. Sachdev, \$376,884.

Performance-Based Elements of Compensation Annual Cash Bonus and Equity Awards

Two of the principal elements of our executive compensation program annual cash bonus and annual equity grants are awarded in amounts determined on the basis of performance, which is evaluated annually. The annual cash bonus is determined based on a formula that incorporates the executive's base salary, target bonus and separate company-wide and individual performance ratings for the completed year. Annual equity award amounts are adjusted to reflect the executive's individual performance rating for the preceding year.

At the beginning of each calendar year, our board of directors, in consultation with our chief executive officer, establishes company-wide goals for that year. Actual company performance against these goals is the most important factor considered by the board in assessing our corporate performance, but our board also considers all other factors it deems relevant in its evaluation. The performance ratings are intended to reflect performance at one of the following levels:

| Company Rating | Level of Company Performance |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Leading | Exceptional performance across our business, including successful execution of our business plan, achievement of a very high proportion of our performance goals, significant additional accomplishments exceeding our original goals, and the absence of significant business setbacks. |
| Strong | A high level of performance, in which a substantial majority of performance goals were met and our business plan for the year was achieved. |
| Building | Failure to successfully implement a substantial portion of the annual performance goals for any reason, including a failure by management to execute our business plan, whether or not due to events outside our control. |
| Not Building | Unacceptable and disappointing performance. Significant improvement required and expected. |

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The individual incentive targets assigned to each level were determined in 2005 using available information about comparator group companies at that time. In 2007, 2008 and 2009, the MDCC engaged Hewitt Associates to conduct a review of available data about comparator company compensation. As a result of its analysis of these data, the MDCC concluded that the aggregate cash compensation base salary plus target bonus using the incentive targets set in 2005 was in the appropriate range.

In early 2009, in conjunction with planning for our leadership transition, our board decided to increase the individual incentive target for the CEO to 115% of base salary. The MDCC, in making this recommendation to the board, reviewed comparator company data and concluded that the aggregate cash compensation proposed for Mr. Emmens base salary plus target bonus was on the upper end of but within the appropriate range, and that this was desirable and necessary to recruit Mr. Emmens. At the same time, the MDCC set Dr. Boger's incentive target for 2009 to the midpoint of the range for comparator company CEOs (similar to Dr. Boger's base salary as discussed above), which is 100% of base salary. Because Dr. Boger's employment terminated in May 2009, he was not eligible for and did not receive a bonus on account of 2009 performance, although his target bonus was factored into calculations of payments under his transition agreement. Accordingly, for 2009, the target bonuses were:

| | Individual Incentive Target (expressed as a percentage of base salary) |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chief Executive Officer | 115% |
| Executive Vice President | 40% |
| Senior Vice President and Member of Executive Team | 35% |

We expect that the MDCC will review available data about comparator company compensation during 2010 once it becomes available, and that this analysis could lead to recommended further adjustments to the 2010 individual incentive targets.

Performance Factors: The target bonus is subject to adjustment on the basis of performance factors for the applicable year, including factors based on both the individual and company performance ratings. These adjustments allow for payouts significantly above the target bonus in a year where both the individual executive and Vertex significantly exceed performance expectations. It also provides for awards significantly below the target bonus in years in which Vertex and/or the executive falls short of performance expectations.

Company Performance Factors. When our board of directors assigns a performance rating for the completed year, it also assigns two company performance factors one for our executives and one for all other employees. The possible company ratings and corresponding company performance factor ranges for our executive officers are set forth in the table below.

| Company Rating | Company Performance Factor |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Not Building | 0%-25% |
| Building | 0%-80% |
| Strong | 80%-120% |
| Leading | 120%-150% |

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Individual Performance Factors. The possible individual ratings and corresponding individual performance factor ranges for our executive officers are set forth in the table below:

| Individual Rating | Individual Performance Factor |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Not Building | 0% |
| Building | 50%-80% |
| Strong | 80%-120% |
| Leading | 120%-150% |
| Leading/Exemplary | 150% |

Annual Equity Awards

Stock awards made under our 2006 Plan are granted to all eligible employees, including the named executive officers, for the purpose of creating a link between compensation and shareholder return, and to provide the named executive officers and employees with the opportunity to develop and maintain a significant stock ownership position in our company that will act through delayed vesting as an incentive for the employee to remain employed by us. The number of shares awarded increases with increased responsibility and with higher year-end individual performance ratings.

Each of the named executive officers is eligible for a combined grant of stock options and restricted stock, in amounts finally determined by the board of directors during the annual performance review process. Grants to employees are made under a shareholder-approved stock and option plan. All annual performance-based stock option awards are granted with an exercise price determined by averaging the high and low price of our common stock on the date of grant, and vest quarterly over four years. Accordingly, the intrinsic value of any stock option grant is proportional to both the increase in fair market value of the stock between grant and exercise, and to the increasing number of vested shares over time. We grant stock options as a retention tool, progressively rewarding an executive for time-in-service. Stock options also serve to motivate executives to achieve company financial success, because stock options have realizable value only if the value of our common stock increases after the grant date.

All restricted stock awards made to our named executive officers under our annual program are issued at par value, or \$0.01, and vest on the fourth anniversary of the grant date, subject to accelerated vesting for certain performance-based factors. Shares that are vested may be sold by the holder without transfer restrictions, but unvested shares may not be sold. For annual restricted stock grants made to executive officers in 2007 and 2008, half of the shares vest earlier than the fourth anniversary if the market price of our stock achieves and maintains \$60.00 per share, and the other half of the shares vest earlier than the fourth anniversary if our common stock price outperforms the Amex Biotechnology Index, or BTK Index, for two consecutive years. The 2007 grant vested with respect to 50% of the shares on January 24, 2010 because our common stock price outperformed the BTK Index for years ending on the anniversary date of the grant in each of 2009 and 2010.

In February 2009, the MDCC recommended to our board that we change the performance-based acceleration factors to better reflect advancement toward possible regulatory approval and commercial launch of our first drug product, telaprevir. Accordingly, for the restricted stock grants made to executive officers in February 2009, the shares vest on the fourth anniversary of the grant date, subject to accelerated vesting of half of the shares upon acceptance by the United States Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, of a New Drug Application, or NDA, for telaprevir. The other half would vest earlier than the fourth anniversary upon FDA approval of the NDA for telaprevir. The restricted stock grants made to executive

officers in February 2010, on account of 2009 performance, also vest on the fourth anniversary of the grant date, subject to accelerated vesting. Half of the shares will vest early upon approval of the NDA for telaprevir, and half of the shares will vest early upon achieving specified sales levels of telaprevir in the first 18 months after product launch or the launch of any additional drug beyond telaprevir prior to December 31, 2012.

Restricted stock grants serve principally as a retention tool, because they have value that is not limited, as is the case with stock options, to any increase over the prevailing stock price on the date of grant. Restricted stock grants also are linked to performance, however, in the sense that they are more valuable if the stock price increases, and because they vest sooner if the performance-based accelerators are achieved. Additional information regarding our equity grant practices is set forth under the heading *Compensation Decision-Making Process Equity Grant Practices*.

For 2009 performance, the executive officers were eligible for equity grants in the amounts set forth in the following table:

| | Rating | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| | Building | | Strong | | Leading | | Leading and Exemplary | |
| | Restricted Stock | Stock Options | Restricted Stock | Stock Options | Restricted Stock | Stock Options | Restricted Stock | Stock Options |
| Chief Executive Officer | 22,027 | 165,200 | 31,467 | 236,000 | 39,334 | 295,000 | 47,201 | 354,000 |
| Executive Vice President | 6,767 | 50,750 | 9,667 | 72,500 | 12,084 | 90,625 | 14,501 | 108,750 |
| Senior Vice President and Member of Executive Team | 5,693 | 42,700 | 8,133 | 61,000 | 10,166 | 76,250 | 12,200 | 91,500 |

In each year beginning in 2003, our board of directors at its regularly scheduled summer meeting has awarded a mid-year stock option grant. Ordinarily, our board grants stock options to all eligible employees, including the named executive officers, in an amount that is 50% of the number of shares for which the employee would be eligible assuming a "strong" performance. This grant is considered part of the annual equity award related to performance in that year. Upon completion of the individual's annual performance evaluation early in the following year each employee typically receives a second option award. At that time, we determine the aggregate number of shares to be awarded for the entire year on the basis of the table above, and award the balance after adjusting on the basis of the executive officer's individual performance rating and subtracting the amount granted in the mid-year award.

2009 Compensation Decisions for Performance-Based Elements.

Company Rating Our board of directors evaluated overall 2009 company performance against four goals that it established early in 2009:

meet or exceed mission critical milestones toward a successful launch of telaprevir, and strengthen our HCV franchise;

maintain financial strength;

build organizational strength; and

demonstrate increase in portfolio value beyond HCV.

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The MDCC recommended and the board determined that our company performance rating for 2009 was "Leading." The board set the company performance factor for the 2009 executive bonus pool at 150%, which is the highest possible performance factor under our program. This rating was based on our having achieved or exceeded all four of the pre-determined goals. In reaching this determination, the board considered the following:

Telaprevir and HCV Franchise We advanced toward a successful future launch of telaprevir by successfully completing patient enrollment and telaprevir dosing in all Phase 3 telaprevir clinical trials, demonstrating readiness for commercial supply of telaprevir and building inventory for commercial launch, conducting appropriate value analyses for telaprevir, executing on the telaprevir life-cycle plan through BID dosing and HCV/HIV co-infection clinical trials, and we successfully strengthened our HCV franchise by securing rights to VX-222, consistent with our strategy of investigating "STAT-C" (oral combination) therapy for HCV infection, through the acquisition of ViroChem Pharma Inc.

Financial Strength We demonstrated financial strength by finishing the 2009 fiscal year with approximately \$1.285 billion in cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities, including cash realized from restructuring our Mitsubishi Tanabe license arrangement and through financial transactions relating to our rights to future milestone payments under our Janssen Pharmaceutica collaboration agreement, and by managing our net cash loss for 2009 to approximately \$510 million.

Organizational Strength We successfully managed a series of leadership transitions in our executive ranks involving our CEO, chief commercial officer, chief medical officer and head of global research & development; established a 5-year corporate vision and long-range plan, and effectively expanded our capabilities in the areas of research, development and pharmaceutical commercialization.

Portfolio Value We demonstrated increased value in our non-HCV programs, including progressing our CF program into a Phase 3 clinical program for VX-770, commencing a Phase 2 clinical trial of VX-809 and defining a regulatory pathway for a CF corrector/potentiator combination; preparing our JAK3 inhibitor, VX-509, for Phase 2 clinical investigation in patients with RA; submitting a satisfactory protocol for Phase 2 clinical trials of VX-765 in epilepsy; and continuing research productivity by producing several early-stage molecules suitable for further study.

Although the directors discuss and analyze our performance as a group, each director makes his or her own judgment about which factors are important, and how to weight those factors in reaching a conclusion.

Individual Ratings for Named Executive Officers The MDCC recommends to the board for approval both a results-based and a values-based rating for each of our executives. The results-based rating recommendation for each named executive is the combined result of the committee members' observations and review of the officer's role in the accomplishment of the corporate goals, and factors and recommendations provided to the MDCC by our chief executive officer, Mr. Emmens, made on the basis of Mr. Emmens' independent assessment of each executive officer's performance. The MDCC and Mr. Emmens discussed the recommendations at length, on both an individual-by-individual basis, and on a comparative basis. Upon completion of these discussions, the MDCC finalized its recommendation for the results-based rating for each executive, taking into account Mr. Emmens' recommendations, factors considered in the discussions, and the opinions of committee members based on the executive's contributions and the members' interactions with the executive. When considering the more subjective values-based rating, the MDCC also discussed Mr. Emmens' recommendations, giving them greater weight than for the results-based rating, because the values-based rating is pertinent to the executive's daily

interactions in carrying out his or her duties, and the MDCC believes that in his role as CEO, Mr. Emmens has greater visibility than the committee members into the quality of these interactions.

Mr. Emmens also discussed his own performance in 2009 with the MDCC. Mr. Emmens noted that Vertex's performance rating was the highest possible under our system, due to our exceptional performance across all aspects of the business. The board of directors determined that Mr. Emmens' rating similarly should be at the highest possible level, and rated Mr. Emmens' 2009 performance as "leading." For values-based behavior, the board of directors believes that Mr. Emmens is an exceptional leader who exhibits exemplary values-based behavior, and accordingly, assigned Mr. Emmens a values-based rating of "exemplary demonstration."

The MDCC recommended results-based and values-based ratings for each of Dr. Mueller, Mr. Sachdev and Mr. Smith to the board of directors. Ms. Wysenski joined us in December 2009, and thus was ineligible for year-end bonus or equity awards on account of 2009 performance. The MDCC recommended and the board of directors approved a results-based rating of "leading" for Dr. Mueller, because in addition to consistent and excellent research productivity, Dr. Mueller oversaw a year of extraordinary success for the pharmaceutical operations and the chemistry, manufacturing and controls programs, particularly for the telaprevir Phase 3 clinical trial and launch preparation. He also successfully took on additional responsibility for our development organization mid-year. Dr. Mueller was rated "exemplary" for values-based behavior in his leadership of our entire scientific organization. Similarly, the MDCC's recommendation for Mr. Sachdev's performance rating of "leading," based in part on a number of initiatives in the public sector that have the potential to increase the value of our HCV franchise, was adopted by the board. Mr. Smith's organization, which includes finance and accounting, real estate, operations, information systems and strategic communications, also performed at a high level in supporting achievement of the corporate objectives detailed above, particularly in accessing over \$1 billion through debt and equity offerings and other financial transactions, causing the MDCC to recommend and the board to approve a results-based rating of "leading" for Mr. Smith. With respect to values-based evaluation, the MDCC recommended that each of Mr. Smith and Mr. Sachdev be rated "living the values" because they demonstrated strong values-based behavior.

Based on the foregoing, the named executive officers earned the following performance ratings and individual performance factors on account of 2009 performance.

| | Results Based Rating | Values Based Rating | 2009 Overall Performance Rating | Individual Performance Factor |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Matthew W. Emmens | Leading | Exemplary Demonstration | Leading/Exemplary | 150% |
| Ian F. Smith | Leading | Living the Values | Leading | 145% |
| Peter Mueller | Leading | Exemplary Demonstration | Leading/Exemplary | 150% |
| Amit Sachdev | Leading | Living the Values | Leading | 145% |

Annual Cash Bonus and Equity Awards The annual cash bonuses and annual equity awards for 2009 resulting from the company and individual performance ratings are set forth in the tables under the headings *Compensation and Equity Tables Summary Compensation Table Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation Cash Bonus and Compensation and Equity Tables Summary Compensation Table Stock Awards and Options Awards*.

Benefits

Our executives are eligible to participate in all benefits programs on the terms made generally available to our employees, including medical insurance, dental insurance, payment of life insurance premiums, disability coverage, and participation in our employee stock purchase plan. Our retirement benefits are limited to a defined contribution a 401(k) plan, in which our named executive officers are eligible to participate, subject to all applicable limitations under the plan. We make matching contributions to the 401(k) plan, which are made in the form of fully vested unitized interests in a Vertex common stock fund, and are subject to certain limitations. The formula for determining the amount of our matching contributions is the same for our named executive officers as for our other employees (and are subject to the same statutory maximum), but the actual contributions made to the accounts of our named executive officers are at the top end of the range, due generally to the executives' higher salaries and corresponding higher cash contribution levels. We do not provide any other retirement benefits to the named executive officers.

Other-Than-Annual Compensation Arrangements

Supplemental Grants of Equity Compensation. On an occasional basis, the MDCC has recommended that our board of directors make an additional, off-cycle equity award to an executive officer or group of officers in order to achieve one or more of the objectives of our executive compensation program. Our board made such an award in October 2009 to Mr. Smith, Dr. Mueller and Mr. Sachdev. The objective of this grant was to provide a retention incentive to our executives to provide stability in the team that will be responsible for bringing our first product, telaprevir, successfully to market. The October 2009 grant was structured as an option award with a "cliff vest" on the fifth anniversary of the grant, with portions of the grant vesting earlier upon the achievement of milestones related to the advancement of the company from a development stage biotechnology company toward a fully-capable biopharmaceutical company, including FDA approval of telaprevir, and, if we obtain FDA approval for telaprevir, having had a sufficient cash balance at the time we filed an NDA for telaprevir, advancement of at least two other product candidates beyond "proof-of-concept," and achieving specified sales levels for telaprevir in the United States during the first eighteen months following marketing approval, if obtained, or launching a second product in the United States. The board of directors awarded a larger number of shares to those executives with direct responsibilities for achieving these objectives, and a lower number of shares to those executives whose functional responsibility provide support for the operational groups. One of Ms. Wysenski's new hire equity grants, awarded when she joined us in December 2009, incorporates similar vesting provisions, so that our executives share incentives and goals for the company during the next critical period in our company life-cycle. The number of shares granted to each of our named executive officers was as follows: 300,000 shares for each of Dr. Mueller, Mr. Smith and Ms. Wysenski, and 60,000 shares for Mr. Sachdev.

Supplemental grants generally are made on an *ad hoc* basis, when warranted in the judgment of the MDCC and our board. We cannot predict if the board will make additional supplemental grants in the future, or characterize the likely size and/or terms of any such grants.

Employment Agreements. The initial compensation terms for newly hired members of our executive team are the result of negotiations between us, in consultation with the MDCC and our board, and the executive being recruited. Accordingly, the initial employment terms for each of the named executive officers vary significantly because they take into account both our interests and the executive's interests under the circumstances at the time of negotiation, and depend on the level of job responsibility, the market for the executive's services, the value of other opportunities then available to the executive and

similar considerations. Executives who join us from other companies may sacrifice potential bonuses and/or equity payouts, and may request compensation elements of similar value. More experienced individuals may seek higher compensation than individuals who are still establishing their careers. We seek to balance the need to be competitive in a competitive market against the need for the executive's compensation to be comparable with the executive's peers at the company. In general, each newly hired executive enters into an employment agreement and change of control agreement and is awarded a stock option and a restricted stock grant, and in some cases a cash sign-on bonus, reimbursement of moving expenses, and other benefits.

The MDCC, and in some instances, the board of directors (excluding Dr. Boger and Mr. Emmens) took a number of actions in connection with our CEO transition that occurred during 2009. In February 2009, Matthew W. Emmens joined us as our president, and on May 23, 2009, he became our president, chairman and chief executive officer. Dr. Boger's employment as CEO terminated on May 23, 2009. Dr. Boger continues to serve on our board of directors.

The MDCC sought assistance in structuring and negotiating Mr. Emmens' agreement both from outside compensation consultants and outside attorneys. In general, the terms of Mr. Emmens' employment agreement provide for compensation elements consistent with the executive compensation program we have used in recent years, although in amounts generally at the higher end of the range for most elements, consistent with Mr. Emmens' expertise and experience. To assist in making judgments in this regard, the MDCC engaged Hewitt Associates to conduct a review of CEO compensation, and related data pertinent to the changes in our comparator company group which were adopted in January 2009 and are discussed more fully below under the heading *Compensation Decision-Making Process Analysis of Compensation Practices of Comparator Companies*. Additional information regarding Mr. Emmens' employment contract is set forth under the heading *Employment Contracts and Change of Control Arrangements*. In connection with its decision to hire Mr. Emmens, our board of directors also entered into a transition agreement with Dr. Boger, and the MDCC considered comparator company data in recommending the compensation terms in that agreement.

In December 2009, we hired Nancy J. Wysenski to serve as executive vice president and chief commercial officer. Ms. Wysenski's employment agreement provided her with an initial base salary of \$460,000, a sign-on bonus of \$25,000 and reimbursement of relocation costs. In addition to the option to purchase 300,000 shares that is described above under the heading *Other-Than-Annual Compensation Arrangements Supplemental Grants of Equity Compensation*, Ms. Wysenski was awarded a stock option grant for 100,000 shares vesting in 16 equal quarterly installments over four years, and a restricted stock grant for 20,000 shares vesting in four equal annual installments. Additional information regarding Ms. Wysenski's employment contract and her change of control agreement is set forth under the heading *Employment Contracts and Change of Control Arrangements*.

Post-Termination Compensation and Benefits

Our employment agreements and the plans we maintain will require us under specified circumstances to provide our named executive officers with cash compensation, benefits and/or acceleration of the vesting of equity awards in the event of termination of employment. The terms of these agreements are separately negotiated and vary from executive to executive with respect to the amount of severance payments, provisions for accelerated equity award vesting, continuation of benefits and other terms. In addition, executive candidates differ significantly from each other in terms of their seniority, experience, talents, motivations, areas of expertise and other individual circumstances. In particular, the executives we are recruiting typically have existing job interests, and joining us may require that these executives forgo

benefits under equity and bonus programs with their existing employers or leave lucrative private practices. In general, we find that these executives are unlikely to join us unless we provide them sufficient security through severance and change of control benefits.

A further discussion of the terms and projected payments under each of our agreements with our named executive officers is set forth under the heading *Employment Contracts and Change of Control Arrangements*. In general, each employment arrangement provides for cash severance and continuation of certain employee benefits in the event that an executive's employment is terminated by us without cause or terminated by the executive for good reason. We use a "double trigger" with respect to benefits that are to be provided in connection with a change of control. A change of control does not itself trigger benefits; rather, benefits are paid only if the employment of the executive is terminated by us other than for cause, death or disability, or by the executive for good reason during a specified period before or after a change of control. We believe a "double trigger" benefit maximizes shareholder value because it prevents a windfall to executives in the event of a change of control in which the executive retains significant responsibility as defined in his or her individual agreement, while still providing our executives appropriate incentives to cooperate in negotiating any change of control in which company executives ultimately believe they may lose their jobs.

In addition to the benefits that only accrue in connection with a change of control, our agreements with certain of our executive officers provide benefits if we terminate their employment with us without cause or they terminate their employment with us for good reason, as such terms are defined in the applicable agreement with the executive officer. A further discussion of the terms and projected payments under each of these agreements is set forth below under the heading *Employment Contracts and Change of Control Arrangements*.

Compensation Decision-Making Process

Role of MDCC and Chief Executive Officer in Setting Executive Compensation

The MDCC has primary responsibility for advising our board of directors with respect to developing and evaluating potential candidates for executive positions, including the chief executive officer, and for overseeing the development of executive succession plans. As part of this responsibility, the MDCC oversees the design, development and implementation of the compensation program for the chief executive officer and the other named executive officers.

The MDCC evaluates the performance of our chief executive officer and recommends to our board for its approval all compensation elements and amounts to be awarded to our chief executive officer. Our chief executive officer Mr. Emmens does not participate in board decisions relating to his compensation.

The MDCC also assesses the performance of the other executive officers and recommends their compensation elements and amounts to our board. Our chief executive officer and our senior vice president, human resources, assist the MDCC in reaching compensation recommendations with respect to executive officers, including the named executive officers other than the chief executive officer. The other named executive officers do not play a role in their own compensation determination. Our board makes all final compensation decisions with respect to our executives.

Role of Compensation Consultant

Neither the company nor the MDCC has a standing contractual arrangement with any compensation consultant who has a role in determining or recommending the amount or form of executive or director compensation. Occasionally, the MDCC has engaged Hewitt Associates to provide information about

competitors' compensation practices. In 2009, the MDCC engaged Hewitt on two occasions. The MDCC invited a representative of Hewitt to attend several meetings in January 2009 and February 2009, in connection with negotiating the employment agreement with Mr. Emmens and the transition agreement with Dr. Boger. At those meetings, the Hewitt representative provided information about (i) possible additions to, and subtractions from, our comparator company group and (ii) CEO compensation data from companies selected by the MDCC for the comparator group. In advance of its July 2009 meeting, the MDCC instructed Hewitt to conduct an analysis of all elements of compensation paid to our five most highly compensated executives compared to similar elements paid to similarly-situated executives at companies in our comparator group and to provide a written report and presentation of findings at the July 2009 MDCC meeting. This information was used as described under the headings *Executive Summary Compensation Decision-Making Process, Detailed Analysis and Discussion Elements of Compensation Performance-Based Elements of Compensation Annual Cash Bonus and Equity Awards Annual Cash Bonus and Compensation Decision-Making Process Analysis of Compensation Practices of Comparator Companies*.

Analysis of Compensation Practices of Comparator Companies

In order to make judgments about elements of executive compensation on a competitive basis, we consider information about the compensation practices of a representative group of companies with whom we compete for executive talent. We select the companies for this comparator group on the basis of industry, annual operating expenses and market capitalization. We review and revise the list of companies on a regular basis. For 2009, there were nine companies in our comparator group, set forth below.

The MDCC's practice in recent years has been to evaluate the composition of the comparator company group on an annual basis. In early 2009, the MDCC decided to make a number of changes to the comparator company group. These changes were designed to account for developments affecting a number of the comparator companies, particularly as a result of market dynamics in the last four months of 2008, and to recognize the potential for commercialization of our drug candidates in late-stage development and with reference in particular to our first drug candidate, telaprevir. As a result of this analysis, and on the basis of pre-established criteria for market capitalization and operating expenses, the MDCC selected the comparator companies set forth below, effective beginning in 2009.

Comparator Group 2009

Abraxis Bioscience Inc.
Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Celgene Corporation
Cephalon, Inc.
Elan Corporation plc
Endo Pharmaceuticals Holdings Inc.
Sepracor Inc.
Shire plc
Warner Chilcott Ltd.

The MDCC does not strictly benchmark executive compensation awards against comparator company compensation. We do look at comparator company information to confirm that our compensation practices and the result of applying our policies and programs in general results in compensation levels that are competitive with those of the comparator companies. In addition, the MDCC reviews broader industry-

specific executive compensation surveys published by Radford, Organization Resources Counselors, Inc. and Towers Watson.

Interdependence of Elements and Tally Sheets

The elements of our compensation program operate independently from one another, except that an adjustment to an executive's base salary level also will result in a corresponding change in the executive's bonus opportunity, and potentially, any severance or change of control payments.

Any time the MDCC evaluates an amount to award or pay for a specific compensation element, we provide a tally sheet that sets forth all elements of the executive's compensation, including salary, cash bonus, value of equity compensation, the dollar value to the executive and cost to us of all personal benefits, the actual projected payout obligations under potential severance and change of control scenarios, and showing the impact of the proposed award or payment on each compensation element and on the executive's aggregate compensation. The purpose of the tally sheets is to assist the MDCC in establishing and administering an overall executive compensation program that is fair and reasonable both to our executives and to our shareholders. The tally sheets contain categories of information similar to those provided under the caption *Compensation and Equity Tables*. However, because the tally sheets are used by the MDCC in connection with forward-looking compensation decisions, we often provide different values in the tally sheets than are reported in these tables. In particular, the tally sheets use more current market prices and use different assumptions regarding the timing and circumstances of any event that could result in a severance payment. For example, tally sheets prepared in 2009 incorporated assumptions that any employment termination in connection with a change of control of the company would take place at least three months in the future and that a buyer would pay a premium over the market price of the company's common stock. The MDCC also reviewed tally sheets in February 2009, when reviewing proposed compensation terms for Mr. Emmens' employment contract and Dr. Boger's transition agreement. The purpose of this information was to permit the MDCC to anticipate the potential payouts under various severance and change of control provisions in the contracts, should they be triggered during the year. The review of tally sheets does not result in specific awards. Rather, the tally sheets provide background information for the MDCC to use in considering one or more components of compensation. Each committee member uses the tally sheets as he or she determines when making compensation decisions. The MDCC also uses the tally sheets, together with other resources, to make a determination each year that the aggregate compensation for each named executive is reasonable and not excessive.

While the tally sheets include information about the current and projected value of each executive's inventory of outstanding vested and unvested equity awards, we believe it is inconsistent with our compensation philosophy to give this "accumulated wealth" weight in setting current executive compensation levels. The value of an executive's equity inventory is largely a function of prior performance, in terms of the size of the grants, the duration of the executive's tenure with us, and the performance of our common stock during that tenure. The inventory can also be significantly affected by whether a particular executive has disposed of equity compensation items in the past or still retains ownership of them. We do not believe that reducing the amount of an executive's current compensation on account of wealth accumulated for prior performance would be consistent with our compensation objectives of retaining, motivating and rewarding our executives.

Tax Considerations

We would like our compensation program to be reasonably cost and tax effective. To the extent consistent with our other goals, we try to preserve corporate tax deductions, while maintaining the

flexibility to approve compensation arrangements that we believe to be in the best interests of the company and our shareholders. The approach may not always result in full tax deductibility. For example, Mr. Emmens' employment agreement provided for the award of an aggregate of 683,129 restricted shares and options in 2009 under our 2006 Stock and Option Plan. These awards may not qualify for full tax deductibility, because the number awarded exceeded the guideline approved by our shareholders for aggregate grants to an individual participant in a calendar year at the time of the grant. The adverse tax impact to us currently is minimal, because at this time we do not have net income subject to federal income tax.

Equity Grant Practices

The exercise price for each stock option awarded to our executive officers under our equity compensation program is the average of the high and low price for our common stock on the date of grant. As discussed above, our board generally grants employee options two times per year, on the date of its mid-summer meeting, usually in July, and on the date of its first meeting of each new year, usually in late January or early February. Supplemental equity grants are made at scheduled MDCC meetings at the time when the MDCC determines they are appropriate in order to meet the objectives of our compensation program. Board and committee meetings generally are scheduled at least a year in advance, and scheduling decisions are made without regard to anticipated earnings or other major announcements by the company.

In general, newly hired employees, including executive officers, are granted options and/or restricted stock effective on the first day of employment, with the options having an exercise price set at the average of the high and low price for our common stock on the employment start date. The employees' start dates are scheduled without regard to anticipated earnings or other major announcements by the company.

Report of Management Development and Compensation Committee on Executive Compensation

The Management Development and Compensation Committee has reviewed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and discussed that analysis with management. Based on its review and its discussions with management, the Management Development and Compensation Committee recommended to Vertex's Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in Vertex's proxy statement for its 2010 annual meeting of shareholders and incorporated by reference into Vertex's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009. This report is provided by the following directors who comprise the Management Development and Compensation Committee:

Roger W. Brimblecombe (Chair)

Bruce I. Sachs

Elaine S. Ullian

COMPENSATION AND EQUITY TABLES

Summary Compensation Table

The following table provides summary information concerning compensation earned by our chief executive officer, chief financial officer, our three other most highly compensated executive officers in 2009 and Dr. Joshua Boger, who served as our chief executive officer until May 2009, and continued his service as a director thereafter. We refer to these officers collectively as our named executive officers.

| Name and Principal Position | Year | Salary | Bonus | Stock Awards | Option Awards | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation | All Other Compensation | Total |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Matthew W. Emmens Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer | 2009 | \$ 1,002,693 | \$ | \$ 4,498,687 | \$ 10,699,406 | \$ 2,846,251 | \$ 231,121 | \$ 19,278,158 |
| Ian F. Smith Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | 2009 | \$ 479,250 | \$ | \$ 405,297 | \$ 7,803,839 | \$ 403,245 | \$ 12,405 | \$ 9,104,036 |
| | 2008 | \$ 444,234 | \$ | \$ 182,900 | \$ 1,231,888 | \$ 391,500 | \$ 11,804 | \$ 2,262,326 |
| | 2007 | \$ 411,595 | \$ | \$ 1,164,328 | \$ 1,641,900 | \$ 141,907 | \$ 12,543 | \$ 3,372,273 |
| Peter Mueller, Ph.D. Executive Vice President, Global Research and Development, and Chief Scientific Officer | 2009 | \$ 538,029 | \$ | \$ 405,297 | \$ 7,803,839 | \$ 495,000 | \$ 12,421 | \$ 9,254,586 |
| | 2008 | \$ 456,664 | \$ | \$ 274,359 | \$ 1,846,554 | \$ 385,324 | \$ 11,563 | \$ 2,974,464 |
| | 2007 | \$ 444,361 | \$ | \$ 1,164,328 | \$ 1,641,900 | \$ 229,804 | \$ 12,712 | \$ 3,493,105 |
| Nancy J. Wysenski Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer | 2009 | \$ 31,846 | \$ 25,000 | 793,800 | \$ 9,295,540 | \$ | \$ 32,028 | \$ 10,178,214 |
| Amit Sachdev Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Public Policy | 2009 | \$ 378,341 | \$ | \$ 409,188 | \$ 2,962,371 | \$ 278,547 | \$ 1,210 | \$ 4,029,657 |
| Joshua Boger, Ph.D. Former President and Chief Executive Officer | 2009 | \$ 373,410 | \$ | \$ 1,583,122 | \$ 5,153,206 | \$ | \$ 3,038,631 | \$ 10,148,369 |
| | 2008 | \$ 708,539 | \$ | \$ 595,356 | \$ 4,010,005 | \$ 978,750 | \$ 11,835 | \$ 6,304,485 |
| | 2007 | \$ 616,615 | \$ | \$ 1,427,431 | \$ 5,344,669 | \$ 318,888 | \$ 12,852 | \$ 7,720,455 |

Stock Awards and Options Awards

The amounts set forth under the captions "Stock Awards" and "Option Awards" in the table above represent the grant-date fair value of awards granted during the applicable fiscal year. Our methodology for determining the grant-date fair value, including underlying estimates and assumptions for calculating these values, is set forth in Note D to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 19, 2010. The amounts set forth above for Ms. Wysenski and Mr. Emmens for 2009 include the grant-date fair value of new hire equity awards. Mr. Smith, Dr. Mueller and Mr. Sachdev each received supplemental option awards in the fourth quarter of 2009. The amounts set forth above for Dr. Boger for 2009 also include the incremental fair value of option awards that were modified in connection with his transition agreement.

Pursuant to applicable Securities and Exchange Commission rules the grant-date fair values of the awards granted in February 2010 for 2009 performance will be included as 2010 compensation. Ms. Wysenski commenced employment with us in December 2009 and was not eligible to receive any 2009

performance awards. The total equity awards made to each of the named executives on account of 2009 performance are as follows:

| | 2009 Individual Performance Rating | Stock Options Awarded in July 2009 | Stock Options Awarded in February 2010 | Total Stock Options Awarded for 2009 Performance | Restricted Stock Awarded in February 2010 for 2009 Performance |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Matthew W. Emmens | Leading/Exemplary | n/a | 354,000 | 354,000 | 47,201 |
| Ian F. Smith | Leading | 36,250 | 54,375 | 90,625 | 12,084 |
| Peter Mueller | Leading/Exemplary | 36,250 | 72,500 | 108,750 | 14,501 |
| Amit Sachdev | Leading | 30,500 | 45,750 | 76,250 | 10,166 |

Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation Cash Bonus

The amounts set forth under the caption "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation" represent cash bonuses for 2009, 2008 and 2007 performance, each of which was paid in the first quarter of the next year. The cash bonus awards to the named executive officers for 2009 performance, other than Ms. Wysenski, who was not eligible, were determined as follows:

| | 2009 Base Salary Level | Individual Incentive Target | 2009 Target Bonus | Company Performance Factor | Individual Performance Factor | 2009 Bonus |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Matthew W. Emmens | \$ 1,100,000 | 115% | \$ 1,265,000 | 150% | 150% | \$ 2,846,251 |
| Ian F. Smith | \$ 463,500 | 40% | \$ 185,400 | 150% | 145% | \$ 403,245 |
| Peter Mueller | \$ 550,000 | 40% | \$ 220,000 | 150% | 150% | \$ 495,000 |
| Amit Sachdev | \$ 365,907 | 35% | \$ 128,067 | 150% | 145% | \$ 278,547 |

All Other Compensation

The amounts set forth under the caption "All Other Compensation" in the table above consist of:

| | Year | 401(k) Match | Life Insurance Premiums | Relocation and Transition Expenses | Cash Severance | Board Compensation(1) | Total |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Matthew W. Emmens | 2009 | \$ | \$ 1,325 | \$ 224,969 | \$ | \$ 4,827 | \$ 231,121 |
| Ian F. Smith | 2009 | \$ 11,025 | \$ 1,380 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 12,405 |
| | 2008 | \$ 10,350 | \$ 1,454 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 11,804 |
| | 2007 | \$ 10,125 | \$ 2,418 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 12,543 |
| Peter Mueller | 2009 | \$ 11,025 | \$ 1,396 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 12,421 |
| | 2008 | \$ 10,350 | \$ 1,213 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 11,563 |
| | 2007 | \$ 10,125 | \$ 2,587 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 12,712 |
| Nancy J. Wysenski | 2009 | \$ | \$ 69 | \$ 31,959 | \$ | \$ | \$ 32,028 |
| Amit Sachdev | 2009 | \$ | \$ 1,210 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 1,210 |
| Joshua Boger | 2009 | \$ 11,025 | \$ 613 | \$ | \$ 3,002,133 | \$ 24,860 | \$ 3,038,631 |
| | 2008 | \$ 10,350 | \$ 1,485 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 11,835 |
| | 2007 | \$ 10,125 | \$ 2,727 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 12,852 |

(1) Board Compensation consists of fees paid for board service while the named executive officer was a non-employee director.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards

The following table provides information with respect to grants of awards to each of our named executive officers during 2009:

| Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards | | | | | Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards (shares) | All Other Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (shares) | Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (per share) | Closing Price of Stock on Grant Date (per share) | Grant-Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grant Date | Threshold | Target | Maximum | | | | | | |
| Matthew W. Emmens | \$ 0 | \$ 1,265,000 | \$ 2,846,251 | | | | | | |
| 2/5/2009 | | | | 134,129 | | | | \$ 4,498,687 | |
| 2/5/2009 | | | | | 549,000 | \$ 33.55 | \$ 33.96 | \$ 10,699,406 | |
| Ian F. Smith | \$ 0 | \$ 185,400 | \$ 417,150 | | | | | | |
| 2/5/2009 | | | | 12,084 | | | | \$ 405,297 | |
| 2/5/2009 | | | | | 54,375 | \$ 33.55 | \$ 33.96 | \$ 1,059,709 | |
| 7/16/2009 | | | | | 36,250 | \$ 33.28 | \$ 33.23 | \$ 662,201 | |
| 10/22/2009 | | | | | 300,000 | \$ 33.00 | \$ 32.91 | \$ 6,081,930 | |
| Peter Mueller | \$ 0 | \$ 220,000 | \$ 495,000 | | | | | | |
| 2/5/2009 | | | | 12,084 | | | | \$ 405,297 | |
| 2/5/2009 | | | | | 54,375 | \$ 33.55 | \$ 33.96 | \$ 1,059,709 | |
| 7/16/2009 | | | | | 36,250 | \$ 33.28 | \$ 33.23 | \$ 662,201 | |
| 10/22/2009 | | | | | 300,000 | \$ 33.00 | \$ 32.91 | \$ 6,081,930 | |
| Nancy J. Wysenski | | | | | | | | | |
| 12/9/2009 | | | | 20,000 | | | | \$ 793,800 | |
| 12/9/2009 | | | | | 100,000 | \$ 39.70 | \$ 40.18 | \$ 2,095,450 | |
| 12/9/2009 | | | | | 300,000 | \$ 39.70 | \$ 40.18 | \$ 7,200,090 | |
| Amit Sachdev | \$ 0 | \$ 128,067 | \$ 288,152 | | | | | | |
| 2/5/2009 | | | | 12,200 | | | | \$ 409,188 | |
| 2/5/2009 | | | | | 61,000 | \$ 33.55 | \$ 33.96 | \$ 1,188,823 | |
| 7/16/2009 | | | | | 30,500 | \$ 33.28 | \$ 33.23 | \$ 557,162 | |
| 10/22/2009 | | | | | 60,000 | \$ 33.00 | \$ 32.91 | \$ 1,216,386 | |
| Joshua Boger | | | | | | | | | |
| 2/5/2009 | | | | 47,201 | | | | \$ 1,583,122 | |
| 2/5/2009 | | | | | 236,000 | \$ 33.55 | \$ 33.96 | \$ 2,879,200 | |
| 6/1/2009 | | | | | 20,000 | \$ 29.89 | \$ 30.04 | \$ 319,466 | |

The amounts in the "Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards" column represent the minimum, target and maximum amounts that our named executive officers were eligible for pursuant to our 2009 annual cash bonus program. Ms. Wysenski was not eligible for a cash bonus award for 2009. Actual amounts paid to each of the named executive officers under this plan for 2009 performance are set forth in the *Summary Compensation Table* above.

The amounts in the "Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards" column represent the number of shares of restricted stock granted to the named executive officers in 2009. The restricted stock awards to Mr. Emmens and Ms. Wysenski represent new hire awards and the restricted stock awards to Mr. Smith, Dr. Mueller, Mr. Sachdev and Dr. Boger were made in early 2009 on account of the executives' performance during 2008. Mr. Emmens' restricted stock award vests on February 5, 2012. Ms. Wysenski's restricted stock award vests in four annual installments from the date of grant. The restricted stock awards to Mr. Smith, Dr. Mueller, Mr. Sachdev and Dr. Boger are characterized as

performance-accelerated restricted stock, or PARS, which is subject to time-based vesting on the fourth anniversary of grant, with half of the shares subject to acceleration upon the FDA's acceptance of the filing of an NDA for telaprevir and the other half of the shares subject to acceleration of vesting upon the approval of the NDA for telaprevir. A portion of Dr. Boger's 2009 PARS award vested on May 23, 2009 under the terms of his transition agreement and the remainder is subject to vesting pursuant to the terms of the award.

In accordance with our stock and option plans, the exercise prices for the stock options granted to our named executive officers during 2009 were equal to the average of the high and the low prices of our common stock on the grant date. As a result, in 2009 the exercise prices of options granted to our named executive officers were higher than the grant-date closing price of our common stock for our July 16, 2009 and October 22, 2009 grants and lower than the grant-date closing price of our common stock for our February 5, 2009, June 1, 2009 and December 9, 2009 grants. In the future, we expect that options will continue to be granted with exercise prices equal to the average of the high and low prices of our common stock on the grant date, and that as a result the exercise prices are likely be different from the closing price of our common stock on the grant date. Each stock option granted on February 5, 2009 and July 16, 2009 set forth in the table above and the December 9, 2009 grant to Ms. Wysenski for 100,000 shares was granted subject to vesting in 16 quarterly installments during the first four years of its ten-year term. The October 22, 2009 grants set forth in the table above and the December 9, 2009 grant to Ms. Wysenski for 300,000 shares vest on October 22, 2014, subject to acceleration as described on page 33 of this proxy statement. The June 1, 2009 grant to Dr. Boger was a non-employee director grant that vested in full on June 1, 2009.

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The following tables provide information with respect to outstanding equity awards held by each of our named executive officers on December 31, 2009, based on the closing price of \$42.85 per share of our common stock on December 31, 2009.

| | Option Awards | | | | Stock Awards | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (shares) (1) | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (shares) (1) | Option Exercise Price (per share) | Option Expiration Date (2) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (shares) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested |
| <i>Matthew W. Emmens</i> | Restricted Stock | | | | 134,129(3) | \$ 5,747,428 |
| | Stock Options | | | | | |
| | 20,000 | 0 | \$ 9.16 | 7/22/2014 | | |
| | 10,000 | 0 | \$ 13.32 | 5/31/2015 | | |
| | 20,000 | 0 | \$ 28.40 | 5/31/2018 | | |
| | 20,000 | 0 | \$ 29.84 | 5/31/2017 | | |
| | 102,937 | 446,063 | \$ 33.55 | 2/4/2019 | | |
| | 20,000 | 0 | \$ 34.32 | 5/31/2016 | | |
| <i>Ian F. Smith</i> | Restricted Stock | | | | 12,200(4) | \$ 522,770 |
| | | | | | 12,084(5) | \$ 517,799 |
| | | | | | 9,667(6) | \$ 414,231 |
| | | | | | 15,000(7) | \$ 642,750 |
| | | | | | 12,084(8) | \$ 517,799 |
| | Stock Options | | | | | |
| | 6,187 | 0 | \$ 10.41 | 2/2/2015 | | |
| | 7,875 | 0 | \$ 17.16 | 7/19/2015 | | |
| | 15,860 | 20,390 | \$ 18.93 | 2/6/2018 | | |
| | 20,391 | 15,859 | \$ 28.84 | 7/11/2017 | | |
| | 11,328 | 24,922 | \$ 32.16 | 7/23/2018 | | |
| | 0 | 300,000 | \$ 33.00 | 10/21/2019 | | |
| | 2,265 | 33,985 | \$ 33.28 | 7/15/2019 | | |
| | 10,195 | 44,180 | \$ 33.55 | 2/4/2019 | | |
| | 29,453 | 6,797 | \$ 35.35 | 7/19/2016 | | |
| | 68,906 | 4,594 | \$ 35.64 | 2/1/2016 | | |
| | 37,383 | 16,992 | \$ 36.30 | 1/23/2017 | | |

| | Option Awards | | | | Stock Awards | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (shares) (1) | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (shares) (1) | Option Exercise Price (per share) | Option Expiration Date (2) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (shares) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested |
| <i>Peter Mueller</i> | Restricted Stock | | | | 12,200(4) | \$ 522,770 |
| | | | | | 12,084(5) | \$ 517,799 |
| | | | | | 14,501(6) | \$ 621,368 |
| | | | | | 15,000(7) | \$ 642,750 |
| | | | | | 12,084(8) | \$ 517,799 |
| | Stock Options | | | | | |
| | 34,400 | 0 | \$ 10.41 | 2/2/2015 | | |
| | 18,000 | 0 | \$ 11.27 | 10/6/2014 | | |
| | 150,000 | 0 | \$ 16.32 | 7/14/2013 | | |
| | 18,000 | 0 | \$ 17.16 | 7/19/2015 | | |
| | 31,718 | 40,782 | \$ 18.93 | 2/6/2018 | | |
| | 20,391 | 15,859 | \$ 28.84 | 7/11/2017 | | |
| | 11,328 | 24,922 | \$ 32.16 | 7/23/2018 | | |
| | 0 | 300,000 | \$ 33.00 | 10/21/2019 | | |
| | 2,265 | 33,985 | \$ 33.28 | 7/15/2019 | | |
| | 10,195 | 44,180 | \$ 33.55 | 2/4/2019 | | |
| | 29,453 | 6,797 | \$ 35.35 | 7/19/2016 | | |
| | 68,906 | 4,594 | \$ 35.64 | 2/1/2016 | | |
| | 37,383 | 16,992 | \$ 36.30 | 1/23/2017 | | |
| <i>Nancy J. Wysenski</i> | Restricted Stock | | | | 20,000(9) | \$ 857,000 |
| | Stock Options | | | | | |
| | 0 | 300,000 | \$ 39.70 | 12/8/2019 | | |
| | 0 | 100,000 | \$ 39.70 | 12/8/2019 | | |
| <i>Amit Sachdev</i> | Restricted Stock | | | | 10,166(6) | \$ 435,613 |
| | | | | | 12,200(8) | \$ 522,770 |
| | | | | | 7,500(10) | \$ 321,375 |
| | Stock Options | | | | | |
| | 33,360 | 42,890 | \$ 18.93 | 2/6/2018 | | |
| | 42,187 | 32,813 | \$ 29.25 | 7/22/2017 | | |
| | 9,531 | 20,969 | \$ 32.16 | 7/23/2018 | | |
| | 0 | 60,000 | \$ 33.00 | 10/21/2019 | | |
| | 1,906 | 28,594 | \$ 33.28 | 7/15/2019 | | |
| | 11,437 | 49,563 | \$ 33.55 | 2/4/2019 | | |

| | Option Awards | | | | Stock Awards | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (shares) (1) | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (shares) (1) | Option Exercise Price (per share) | Option Expiration Date (2) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (shares) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested |
| <i>Joshua Boger</i> | | | | | | |
| | Restricted Stock | | | | 1,670(5) | \$ 71,560 |
| | | | | | 9,505(6) | \$ 407,289 |
| | | | | | 26,025(8) | \$ 1,115,171 |
| | Stock Options | | | | | |
| | 42,000 | 0 | \$ 9.07 | 12/10/2013 | | |
| | 72,188 | 0 | \$ 10.41 | 2/2/2015 | | |
| | 52,500 | 0 | \$ 11.27 | 10/6/2014 | | |
| | 134,951 | 0 | \$ 15.60 | 1/17/2013 | | |
| | 27,314 | 0 | \$ 15.87 | 7/21/2012 | | |
| | 52,500 | 0 | \$ 17.16 | 7/19/2015 | | |
| | 95,875 | 22,125 | \$ 18.93 | 2/6/2018 | | |
| | 125,000 | 0 | \$ 24.66 | 12/10/2011 | | |
| | 110,625 | 7,375 | \$ 28.84 | 7/11/2017 | | |
| | 20,000 | 0 | \$ 29.89 | 5/31/2019 | | |
| | 81,125 | 36,875 | \$ 32.16 | 7/23/2018 | | |
| | 132,750 | 103,250 | \$ 33.55 | 2/4/2019 | | |
| | 118,000 | 0 | \$ 35.35 | 7/19/2016 | | |
| | 600,000 | 0 | \$ 35.64 | 2/1/2016 | | |
| | 177,000 | 0 | \$ 36.30 | 1/23/2017 | | |
| | 175,000 | 0 | \$ 70.75 | 12/5/2010 | | |

- (1) Unvested stock options are vesting in 16 quarterly installments during the first four years of their ten-year terms subject to the following exceptions. The October 22, 2009 grants to Mr. Smith, Dr. Mueller and Mr. Sachdev and the December 9, 2009 grant to Ms. Wysenski for 300,000 shares vest on October 22, 2014 subject to acceleration as described under the heading "Grants of Plan-Based Awards" above. Dr. Boger's stock options were accelerated in part in connection with his transition agreement and the remaining unvested shares are vesting on a quarterly basis while Dr. Boger continues to serve on our board.
- (2) The option expiration dates listed above reflect the final expiration date for each of the listed options. If the named executive officer's service with us is terminated, the options would expire, subject to certain exceptions, three months after the termination of service. Mr. Emmens' options expiring in 2014 through 2018 and Dr. Boger's option expiring on May 31, 2019, which were granted in connection with their service as non-employee directors, have ten-year terms and will not expire as a result of a termination in service. Pursuant to his transition agreement, Dr. Boger's other options will expire on the earliest of (i) the date set forth in the table above, (ii) if his service with the company terminates on or prior to September 30, 2010, December 31, 2010 and (iii) if his service with the company terminates after September 30, 2010, three months after his termination of service.
- (3) This restricted stock award vests on February 5, 2012.
- (4) Each of these restricted stock awards vested on February 2, 2010, the fourth anniversary of grant.
- (5) Each of these awards is a performance-accelerated restricted stock award, which is subject to time-based vesting on January 24, 2011, the fourth anniversary of grant. The vesting of half of the shares was accelerated on January 24, 2010 because our common stock outperformed the BTK Index for two consecutive years. The vesting of the remaining half of the shares will be accelerated if the market price of our common stock achieves and maintains \$60.00 per share.

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- (6) Each of these awards is a performance-accelerated restricted stock award, which is subject to time-based vesting on February 7, 2012, the fourth anniversary of grant. The vesting of half of the shares will be accelerated if the market price of our common stock achieves and maintains \$60.00 per share.
- (7) Each of these restricted stock awards vests on May 6, 2010.
- (8) Each of these awards is a performance-accelerated restricted stock award, which is subject to time-based vesting on February 5, 2013, the fourth anniversary of grant, subject to acceleration as described under the heading "Grants of Plan-Based Awards" above.
- (9) This restricted stock award vests in four annual installments from December 9, 2009.
- (10) This restricted stock award will vest with respect to 50% of the shares on July 23, 2010 and 50% of the shares on July 23, 2011.
-

Options Exercised and Stock Vested

The following table provides information with respect to the value realized by our named executive officers related to options to purchase common stock exercised by the named executive officers during 2009 and shares of restricted stock that vested during 2009. The value realized per share for options is based on the difference between the exercise price and the fair market value of the shares of common stock at the time the options were exercised. The value realized on vesting of restricted stock awards is based on the fair market value of the shares on the vesting date.

| | Option Awards | | Stock Awards | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise | Value Realized on Exercise | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting | Value Realized on Vesting |
| Matthew W. Emmens | | \$ | | \$ |
| Ian F. Smith | 41,212 | \$ 959,782 | 35,350 | \$ 1,051,010 |
| Peter Mueller | 18,400 | \$ 390,425 | 36,100 | \$ 1,075,460 |
| Nancy J. Wysenski | | \$ | | \$ |
| Amit Sachdev | | \$ | 3,750 | \$ 130,013 |
| Joshua Boger | 166,374 | \$ 3,704,408 | 188,815 | \$ 5,512,838 |

Compensation of Directors

We have designed and implemented our compensation programs for our non-employee directors to attract, motivate and retain individuals who are committed to our values and goals and who have the expertise and experience that we need to achieve those goals. We periodically review and adjust our non-employee director compensation program. Matthew W. Emmens, our chief executive officer, has not received any additional compensation for his service on our board since he became an executive officer in February 2009.

The annual cash compensation for non-employee directors serving on our board includes an annual retainer of \$25,000, payable in quarterly installments, plus \$2,500 for each board meeting attended and \$500 for each committee meeting attended on a regular board meeting day. If a committee meeting is held on a day other than a regular board meeting day, the committee meeting fee is \$1,000. Board and committee meetings held by conference call are compensated at the rate of \$1,250 per meeting and \$375 per meeting, respectively. The chair of the corporate governance and nominating committee receives an additional annual retainer fee of \$20,000, the chair of the audit and finance committee receives an additional annual retainer fee of \$20,000, and the chair of the MDCC receives an additional annual retainer fee of \$14,000.

In addition, each non-employee director, upon initial election or appointment to the board, receives a non-qualified option to purchase 30,000 shares of our common stock at an exercise price equal to the fair market value per share of our common stock on the date of grant. Those options vest quarterly over a four-year period from the date of grant, based on continued service on the board. There were two directors elected to their initial term in 2009. Each non-employee director in office on June 1 of each year receives a non-qualified option to purchase 20,000 shares of common stock, exercisable immediately, at an exercise price equal to the fair market value per share of our common stock on the date of grant. The chair of our board, or the lead independent director if the chair is not an independent director, receives an additional

non-qualified option to purchase 20,000 shares of common stock exercisable immediately, at an exercise price equal to the fair market value per share of our common stock on the date of grant, which similarly is granted on June 1.

The following table provides certain summary information concerning compensation earned during 2009 by directors who were non-employee directors in 2009, other than the compensation received by Dr. Boger and Mr. Emmens for partial-year service as a non-employee director, which is reflected in the summary compensation table for our named executive officers set forth above.

| | Fees Earned or Paid in | | | Total |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| | Cash (1) | Option Awards (2) | All Other Compensation (3) | |
| Charles A. Sanders | \$ 65,000 | \$ 638,932 | \$ | \$ 703,932 |
| Roger W. Brimblecombe | \$ 62,375 | \$ 319,466 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 386,841 |
| Stuart J. M. Collinson | \$ 46,000 | \$ 319,466 | \$ | \$ 365,466 |
| Eugene H. Cordes | \$ 45,750 | \$ 319,466 | \$ | \$ 365,216 |
| Jeffrey M. Leiden | \$ 24,000 | \$ 560,706 | \$ | \$ 584,706 |
| Bruce I. Sachs | \$ 47,875 | \$ 319,466 | \$ | \$ 367,341 |
| Elaine S. Ullian | \$ 46,375 | \$ 319,466 | \$ | \$ 365,841 |
| Dennis L. Winger | \$ 32,750 | \$ 560,706 | \$ | \$ 593,456 |
| Eric K. Brandt (former director) | \$ 23,563 | \$ | \$ | \$ 23,563 |

(1)

The cash compensation set forth in the column "Fees Earned or Paid in Cash" consisted of the following:

| | Annual Retainer for Non-Employee Directors | Annual Retainer for Committee Chairs | Fees for Participation in Board and Committee Meetings | Total Fees Earned |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Charles A. Sanders | \$ 25,000 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 20,000 |
| Roger W. Brimblecombe | \$ 25,000 | \$ 14,000 | \$ 23,375 | \$ 62,375 |
| Stuart J. M. Collinson | \$ 25,000 | \$ | \$ 21,000 | \$ 46,000 |
| Eugene H. Cordes | \$ 25,000 | \$ | \$ 20,750 | \$ 45,750 |
| Jeffrey M. Leiden | \$ 12,500 | \$ | \$ 11,500 | \$ 24,000 |
| Bruce I. Sachs | \$ 25,000 | \$ | \$ 22,875 | \$ 47,875 |
| Elaine S. Ullian | \$ 25,000 | \$ | \$ 21,375 | \$ 46,375 |
| Dennis L. Winger | \$ 12,500 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 10,250 | \$ 32,750 |
| Eric K. Brandt (former director) | \$ 9,340 | \$ 7,473 | \$ 6,750 | \$ 23,563 |

(2)

The amounts set forth under the caption "Option Awards" in the table above represent the grant-date fair value for financial statement reporting purposes of the equity awards granted during 2009. Our methodology, including underlying estimates and assumptions, for calculating these values is set forth in Note D to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 19, 2010. Each of our non-employee directors serving as a director on June 1, 2009 received a non-qualified option to purchase 20,000 shares of our common stock, exercisable immediately, at an exercise price of \$29.89. In addition, for service as our lead independent director, we granted Dr. Sanders a non-qualified option to purchase 20,000 shares of our common stock, exercisable immediately, at an exercise price of \$29.89, on June 1, 2009. The grant-date fair value of each grant made on

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June 1, 2009 was \$319,466. On July 6, 2009, Dr. Leiden and Mr. Winger each received a non-qualified option to purchase 30,000 shares of our common stock, which will vest quarterly over 4 years, at an exercise price of \$34.05 and a grant-date fair value of \$560,706. Each 2009 option awarded to our directors was granted at exercise price equal the average of the high and low prices for our common stock on the date of grant.

(3)

The amount in this column represents fees paid to Dr. Brimblecombe for participating in board meetings for our subsidiary located in the United Kingdom.

As of December 31, 2009, our non-employee directors had outstanding stock options to purchase our common stock as follows, except that Dr. Boger's outstanding options and restricted stock awards are set forth above in the *Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End Table*:

| | Unexercisable Options | Exercisable Options | Total Outstanding Options |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Charles A. Sanders | | 210,000 | 210,000 |
| Roger W. Brimblecombe | | 112,500 | 112,500 |
| Stuart J. M. Collinson | | 225,104 | 225,104 |
| Eugene H. Cordes | | 110,000 | 110,000 |
| Jeffrey M. Leiden | 28,125 | 1,875 | 30,000 |
| Bruce I. Sachs | | 130,000 | 130,000 |
| Elaine S. Ullian | | 97,500 | 97,500 |
| Dennis L. Winger | 28,125 | 1,875 | 30,000 |
| | | 48 | |

SUMMARY OF TERMINATION AND CHANGE OF CONTROL BENEFITS

The amounts shown in the tables below are calculated based on the amounts that would have been payable had the named executive officer experienced an employment termination on December 31, 2009. These amounts do not include any life insurance payments or disability insurance payments that the executive or the executive's estate may receive under existing insurance policies. The assumptions underlying the calculations in the following tables include:

the value of each share subject to an option to purchase common stock that would be accelerated in the circumstances described below equals \$42.85 per share (the closing price on the last trading day of 2009), minus the exercise price per share;

the value of each share of restricted stock for which our repurchase right would lapse in the circumstances described below equals \$42.85 per share (the closing price on the last trading day of 2009);

appropriate provision for the continuation of all then-outstanding options would be made in connection with a change of control;

our board of directors would elect not to pay a pro rata portion of an executive's target bonus for the year of termination in cases where the executive's employment is terminated voluntarily by the executive (for any reason, including retirement) or for cause, consistent with our policy that cash bonuses are payable only to employees who are otherwise eligible and who remain employed by us on the date of bonus payment, typically in February of the next year; and

our board of directors would have assigned our company and Mr. Emmens the same 2009 individual and company performance ratings on December 31, 2009 as they assigned to our company and Mr. Emmens in the first quarter of 2010.

The actual amounts that the named executive officers could receive in the future as a result of a termination of employment would likely differ materially from the amounts set forth below as a result of, among other things, changes in our stock price, changes in their base salary, target bonus amounts and actual bonus amounts, and the vesting and grants of additional equity awards.

| | Voluntary Termination or Retirement/ Termination for Cause | Separate from a change of control Involuntary Termination Other Than for Cause/ Termination by Executive With Good Reason | In connection with a change of control Involuntary Termination Other Than for Cause/ Termination by Executive for Good Reason | Death or Disability |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Matthew W. Emmens | | | | |
| Cash Severance Benefits | \$ | \$ 6,120,823 | \$ 7,303,323 | \$ 2,573,323 |
| Continuation of Employee Benefits | | 25,009 | 25,009 | |
| Accelerated Vesting of Stock Options | | 1,914,638 | 4,148,386 | |
| Accelerated Vesting of Restricted Stock | | 2,873,735 | 5,747,428 | |
| Total | \$ | \$ 10,934,205 | \$ 17,224,146 | \$ 2,573,323 |
| Ian F. Smith | | | | |
| Cash Severance Benefits | \$ | \$ 834,300 | \$ 834,300 | \$ 509,850 |
| Continuation of Employee Benefits | | 16,866 | 16,866 | |
| Accelerated Vesting of Stock Options | | 1,176,041 | 4,862,838 | 826,897 |
| Accelerated Vesting of Restricted Stock | | 2,345,223 | 2,615,350 | 2,221,558 |
| Excise tax gross-up | | | 3,347,446 | |
| Total | \$ | \$ 4,372,430 | \$ 11,676,800 | \$ 3,558,305 |
| Peter Mueller | | | | |
| Cash Severance Benefits | \$ | \$ 770,000 | \$ 990,000 | \$ |
| Continuation of Employee Benefits | | 16,882 | 25,323 | |
| Accelerated Vesting of Stock Options | | | 5,350,615 | |
| Accelerated Vesting of Restricted Stock | | 642,750 | 2,822,487 | 642,750 |
| Total | \$ | \$ 1,429,632 | \$ 9,188,425 | \$ 642,750 |
| Nancy J. Wysenski | | | | |
| Cash Severance Benefits | \$ | \$ 644,000 | \$ 655,595 | \$ |
| Continuation of Employee Benefits | | 21,567 | 21,567 | |
| Accelerated Vesting of Stock Options | | | 1,260,000 | |
| Accelerated Vesting of Restricted Stock | | | 857,000 | |
| Total | \$ | \$ 665,567 | \$ 2,794,162 | \$ |
| Amit Sachdev | | | | |
| Cash Severance Benefits | \$ | \$ 493,974 | \$ 622,042 | \$ |
| Continuation of Employee Benefits | | 16,696 | 16,696 | |
| Accelerated Vesting of Stock Options | | 1,510,896 | 3,021,925 | |
| Accelerated Vesting of Restricted Stock | | 843,717 | 1,279,758 | |
| Total | \$ | \$ 2,865,283 | \$ 4,940,421 | \$ |

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In February 2009, Dr. Boger entered into a transition agreement with us in connection with our agreement to terminate his employment in May 2009. Under the transition agreement, in 2009 Dr. Boger received benefits, including a cash severance payment, continuation of employee benefits, accelerated vesting and modification of outstanding option awards and accelerated vesting of portions of restricted stock awards, which are reflected in the compensation and equity tables above. In addition, under the transition agreement, if a qualifying change of control event occurs prior to December 31, 2010 or we enter into a binding agreement prior to December 31, 2010 to effect a transaction that directly results in a change of control, subject to satisfaction of customary closing conditions, Dr. Boger, unless he actively participates in the change of control event as a change of control party, will receive certain additional benefits. The following table sets forth the amounts that would have been payable had a change of control event occurred on December 31, 2009, using the same assumptions that were used in calculating the amounts payable to the other named executive officers as set forth in the table above.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cash Payment | \$ 1,946,457 |
| Continuation of Employee Benefits | 43,961 |
| Accelerated Vesting of Stock Options | 1,986,973 |
| Accelerated Vesting of Restricted Stock | 1,594,020 |
| Total | \$ 5,571,411 |

EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS AND CHANGE OF CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS

We have entered into agreements and maintain plans that will require us to provide to our named executive officers cash compensation, benefits and/or acceleration of the vesting of equity awards in the event of termination of employment under specified circumstances. The following summary descriptions of our employment contracts, change of control agreements and restricted stock agreements containing severance provisions with our named executive officers are qualified by the more complete terms and conditions set forth in each of the agreements. In addition to the agreements described below, outstanding options granted under our stock and option plans provide that, in the event of certain changes of control, either appropriate provision for the continuation of all then-outstanding options must be made, or the vesting of those options will be accelerated and they will become fully exercisable immediately prior to such change of control.

Matthew W. Emmens

The terms and conditions of Mr. Emmens' employment are governed by a written employment contract, which was entered into in February 2009 and expires on May 22, 2012. Mr. Emmens' employment agreement provides that he is entitled to receive compensation as determined by our board of directors and is eligible to receive the benefits generally made available to our executives. In addition, Mr. Emmens has agreed not to engage in specified competitive activities for 18 months after his employment with us terminates. If Mr. Emmens' employment is terminated by us without cause or he terminates his employment for good reason, he would be entitled to receive:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Severance Payment: | A) 150% of the sum of Mr. Emmens' (i) base salary at the time of termination and (ii) target bonus for the year in which his employment is terminated |
| | B) A pro-rated bonus for the year in which the termination occurs based on the annual bonus he would have earned for the year in which the termination occurs |
| Options: | Vesting of outstanding options that would have otherwise vested in the 18 months following termination |
| Restricted Stock: | Vesting in full of each outstanding restricted stock award that would have otherwise vested in the 18 months following the termination and the vesting of 50% of each outstanding restricted stock award that would have otherwise vested more than 18 months following the termination |
| Employee Benefits: | Continuation of certain employee benefits for up to 18 months |

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If Mr. Emmens' employment is terminated by us without cause or he terminates his employment for good reason within two years after a change of control of Vertex, he would instead receive:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Severance Payment: | A) 200% of the sum of Mr. Emmens' (i) base salary at the time of termination and (ii) target bonus for the year in which his employment is terminated |
| | B) A pro-rated bonus for the year in which the termination occurs based on the annual bonus he would have earned for the year in which the termination occurs |
| Options: | Full vesting of all outstanding options |
| Restricted Stock: | Full vesting of all outstanding restricted stock grants |
| Employee Benefits: | Continuation of certain employee benefits for up to 18 months |

Under the employment agreement, Mr. Emmens would have the right to terminate his employment for good reason upon the occurrence of any of the following events without Mr. Emmens' consent:

our failure to continue Mr. Emmens in the positions of president, chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer, at any time during the term of the employment agreement;

a material adverse change in his duties, authority and/or responsibilities that, taken as a whole, effectively constitutes a demotion;

a material breach of the employment agreement by us, including a material reduction in base salary or target bonus; or

the relocation of the office to which he is assigned to a place 35 or more miles away from Cambridge, Massachusetts and such relocation is not at his request or is other than in connection with a change in location of our principal executive offices.

In addition, if there is a change of control and a resulting change in Mr. Emmens' reporting relationship, without his consent, such that he is reporting to an executive officer of a parent entity, rather than to the board of directors of our company (or a successor corporation) or to the board of directors of a parent thereof, any material erosion of Mr. Emmens' independent authority shall in itself constitute good reason for termination; provided that such termination for good reason occurs within two years of such change of control and that the fact that there has been a change in his reporting relationship shall not itself constitute an erosion of his independent authority.

Under Mr. Emmens' employment agreement a change of control shall be deemed to have occurred if:

any person or group, as such terms are used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d)(2) of the Exchange Act, becomes the beneficial owner, as such term is used in Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act, of securities representing more than 50% of the combined voting power of our outstanding securities, having the right to vote in the election of directors; or

all or substantially all our business or assets are sold or disposed of, or we or our subsidiary combines with another company pursuant to a merger, consolidation, or other similar transaction (subject to exceptions set forth in the agreement, including transactions in which our shareholders immediately prior to such merger or consolidation continue to own at least a majority of our

outstanding voting securities or the outstanding voting securities of the surviving entity immediately after the merger or consolidation).

If Mr. Emmens' employment is terminated as a result of a disability, Mr. Emmens would receive a pro-rated bonus for the year in which the termination occurs based on the annual bonus he would have earned for the year in which the termination occurs.

Ian F. Smith

Employment Agreement

The terms and conditions of Mr. Smith's employment are governed by a written employment contract, which was entered into in 2001, amended and restated in 2004 and amended in 2008. Mr. Smith's employment agreement provides that he is entitled to receive compensation as determined by our board of directors and is eligible to receive the benefits generally made available to our executives.

If Mr. Smith's employment were terminated without cause, or if he terminated his employment with us of his own initiative for good reason or we did not renew his agreement, other than in connection with a change of control as described below, he would be entitled to receive:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Severance Payment: | A) The sum of Mr. Smith's (i) base salary and (ii) target bonus for the year in which his employment is terminated |
| | B) A pro rata portion of his target bonus for the year in which the termination occurs |
| Options: | Vesting of outstanding options that otherwise would have vested in the 18 months following termination (excluding the option granted to Mr. Smith in October 2009) |
| Restricted Stock: | Vesting of each outstanding restricted stock award that would otherwise have vested in the 18 months following the termination, treating each award that vests other than ratably (such as PARS grants as described on page 42 of this proxy statement) as if it vests ratably over the term of the grant |
| Employee Benefits: | Continuation of certain employee benefits for up to 12 months |

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If we terminate Mr. Smith's employment without cause or he terminates his employment with us for good reason on a date within the 90 days prior to or the 12 months after a change of control he would be entitled to receive:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Severance Payment: | A) The sum of Mr. Smith's (i) base salary at the time of termination and (ii) target bonus for the year in which his employment is terminated |
| | B) A pro rata portion of his target bonus for the year in which the termination occurs |
| Options: | Full vesting of all outstanding options |
| Restricted Stock: | Full vesting of all outstanding restricted stock grants |
| Employee Benefits: | Continuation of certain employee benefits for up to 12 months |
| Tax Benefits: | Additional payments required to compensate Mr. Smith if payments made under the employment agreement result in certain adverse tax consequences including excise taxes under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended |

If Mr. Smith's employment with us were terminated as a result of his death or disability, he or his estate and/or beneficiaries would receive six months of severance pay, a pro rata portion of his target bonus for the year in which the termination occurred and 12 months acceleration of outstanding stock options and restricted stock awards.

Pursuant to his employment agreement, Mr. Smith has agreed not to engage in specified competitive activities for a period of one year after the termination of his employment with us.

Under the employment agreement, Mr. Smith would have the right to terminate his employment for good reason upon the occurrence of the following events without Mr. Smith's consent:

he is assigned to any duties or responsibilities that are inconsistent, in any significant respect, with the scope of duties and responsibilities associated with his positions and offices on the date of the agreement, provided that such reassignment of duties or responsibilities is not due to his disability or performance, or is at his request;

he suffers a reduction in the authorities, duties and responsibilities associated with his positions and offices on the date of the agreement, on the basis of which he makes a determination in good faith that he can no longer carry out those positions or offices in the manner contemplated on the date the agreement was entered into, provided that any such reduction of duties or responsibilities is not due to his disability or performance, or is at his request;

his base salary is decreased;

his office location as assigned to him by us is relocated 35 or more miles from Cambridge, Massachusetts; or

in the event of a change of control, failure of any successor to assume the obligations and liabilities of the employment agreement.

Under Mr. Smith's employment agreement cause means:

he is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude;

he commits a material breach of any provision of his employment agreement; or

in carrying out his duties, he acts or fails to act in a manner which is determined, in the sole discretion of our board, to be (A) willful gross neglect or (B) willful gross misconduct resulting, in either case, in material harm to us unless such act, or failure to act, was believed by him, in good faith, to be in our best interests.

Under Mr. Smith's employment agreement a change of control shall be deemed to have occurred if:

any person or group as such terms are used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d)(2) of the Exchange Act, becomes the beneficial owner, as such term is used in Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act, of securities representing 51% or more of the combined voting power of our outstanding securities, having the right to vote in the election of directors;

a majority of our board during any 12-month period is replaced at a meeting of our board or at a meeting of our shareholders with individuals other than individuals nominated or approved by a majority of the disinterested directors (as such term is defined in the employment agreement);

all or substantially all of our business is disposed of pursuant to a merger, consolidation or other transaction (subject to exceptions set forth in the agreement) in which we are not the surviving corporation or we are materially or completely liquidated; or

we combine with another company and are the surviving corporation but, immediately after the combination, our shareholders hold, directly or indirectly, less than 50% of the total outstanding securities of the combined company having the right to vote in the election of directors.

Restricted Stock Agreement

In addition to his employment agreement, Mr. Smith is a party to a restricted stock agreement entered into effective as of January 2007. The 2007 restricted stock agreement relates to 15,000 shares of our common stock scheduled to vest on May 6, 2010. Under this agreement the vesting of the subject shares would be accelerated in full if Mr. Smith's employment is terminated for any reason other than voluntarily by him without good reason or by us for cause.

Under the restricted stock agreement, cause means:

Mr. Smith's conviction of a crime of moral turpitude;

Mr. Smith's willful refusal or failure to follow a lawful directive or instruction of our board or the individual to whom he reports provided the executive received prior written notice of the directive or instruction that the executive failed to follow and provided further that he did not correct any such problems within 30 days after receiving notice in good faith from us;

Mr. Smith commits (i) willful gross negligence, or (ii) willful gross misconduct in carrying out the executive's duties, resulting in either case in material harm to us, unless such act, or failure to act, was believed him, in good faith, to be in our best interests; or

Mr. Smith's violation of our policies made known to him regarding confidentiality, securities trading or inside information.

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Under the restricted stock agreement, good reason means that without Mr. Smith's consent, one or more of the following events occurs and Mr. Smith of his own initiative, terminates his employment within 90 days of such event:

he is assigned to any duties or responsibilities that are inconsistent, in any significant respect, with the scope of his duties and responsibilities on the date of the agreement, provided that such reassignment of duties or responsibilities is not due to his disability or his performance, nor is at his request;

he suffers a reduction in the authorities, duties and responsibilities associated with his positions and offices on the date of the agreement, provided, that such reassignment of duties or responsibilities is not due to his disability or his performance, nor is it at his request;

his base salary is decreased below the level on the date of the agreement, other than a reduction that is part of an across-the-board proportionate reduction of the salaries of our senior management team;

he is assigned to an office location 35 or more miles away from his office location immediately prior to such reassignment, other than in connection with a relocation of our principal executive offices; or

under specified circumstances, a successor entity fails to assume the obligations under the restricted stock agreement.

Peter Mueller

Employment Agreement

The terms and conditions of Dr. Mueller's employment are governed by a written employment contract, which was entered into in February 2008 and amended and restated in February 2010. His employment agreement provides that he is entitled to receive compensation as determined by our board of directors and is eligible to receive the benefits generally made available to our executives.

Under his employment agreement, if (i) Dr. Mueller's employment is terminated without cause or (ii) he terminates his employment with us for good reason within 30 days of the event giving rise to his right to terminate for good reason, subject to notice and cure provisions, he would be entitled to receive:

Severance Payment: The sum of Dr. Mueller's (i) base salary and (ii) target bonus for the year in which his employment is terminated

Employee Benefits: Continuation of certain employee benefits for up to 12 months

Under the employment agreement, Dr. Mueller would have the right to terminate his employment for good reason upon the occurrence of the following events without his consent:

Dr. Mueller's base salary is decreased, unless such reduction is part of an across-the-board proportionate reduction in the salaries of our senior management team; or

the office to which he is assigned is relocated to a place 35 or more miles away and such relocation is not at his request or with his prior agreement (and other than in connection with a change in location of our principal executive offices).

Under the employment agreement, cause means:

Dr. Mueller is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude;

Dr. Mueller commits a material breach of any provision of the agreement not involving the performance or nonperformance of duties; or

in carrying out his duties, Dr. Mueller acts or fails to act in a manner that is determined, in the sole discretion of our board, after written notice of any such act or failure to act and a reasonable opportunity to cure the deficiency has been provided to Dr. Mueller, to be (A) willful gross neglect or (B) willful gross misconduct resulting, in either case, in material harm to us unless such act, or failure to act, was believed by him, in good faith, to be in our best interests.

Change of Control Agreement

We have a change of control agreement with Dr. Mueller, which was entered into in March 2003 and amended in February 2008 and December 2008, and amended and restated in February 2010. Under this agreement, if we terminate Dr. Mueller's employment without cause on a date within the 90 days prior to or the 12 months after a change of control or he terminates his employment within 30 days of an event giving rise to a right to terminate for good reason, subject to notice and cure provisions, and the event occurs on a date within the 90 days prior to or the 12 months after a change of control, he would be entitled to receive:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Severance Payment: | A) The sum of Dr. Mueller's (i) base salary and (ii) target bonus for the year in which his employment is terminated |
| | B) A pro rata portion of his target bonus for the year in which the termination occurs |
| Options: | Full vesting of all outstanding options |
| Restricted Stock: | Full vesting of all outstanding restricted stock grants |
| Employee Benefits: | Continuation of certain employee benefits for up to 18 months |

Under the change of control agreement, Dr. Mueller would have the right to terminate his employment for good reason upon the occurrence of the following events without his consent:

he is assigned to material duties or responsibilities that are inconsistent, in any significant respect, with the scope of duties and responsibilities associated with his position and office immediately prior to the change of control, provided, that such reassignment of duties or responsibilities is not for cause, due to his disability or at his request;

he suffers a material reduction in the authorities, duties or job title and responsibilities associated with his position and office immediately prior to the change of control, on the basis of which he makes a good faith determination that he can no longer carry out his position or office in the manner contemplated before the change of control (provided that such reduction in authorities, duties, or job title and responsibilities is not for cause, due to his disability or at his request);

his base salary is decreased to a level below his base salary in effect immediately prior to the change of control;

our principal offices, or the location of the office to which he is assigned at the time the agreement was entered into, is relocated to a place 35 or more miles away; or

following a change of control, our successor fails to assume our obligations under the change of control agreement.

Under the change of control agreement, cause means:

Dr. Mueller is convicted of a felony crime of moral turpitude;

Dr. Mueller willfully refuses or fails to follow a lawful directive or instruction of our board or the individual to whom he reports provided that he received prior written notice of the directive or instruction that he failed to follow and, provided further, that we, in good faith, give him 30 days to correct any problems, and further provided if he corrects the problem he may not be terminated for cause in that instance;

he commits willful gross negligence, or willful gross misconduct, resulting in either case in material harm to us, unless such act, or failure to act, was believed by him, in good faith, to be in our best interests; or

he violates any of our policies made known to him regarding confidentiality, securities trading or inside information.

Under the change of control agreement, change of control means:

any person or group as such terms are used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d)(2) of the Exchange Act becomes the beneficial owner, as such term is used in Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act, of securities representing more than 50% of the combined voting power of our outstanding securities having the right to vote in the election of directors; or

all or substantially all of our business or assets are sold or disposed of, or we or one of our subsidiaries combines with another company pursuant to a merger, consolidation, or other similar transaction, other than (i) a transaction solely for the purpose of reincorporating us or one of our subsidiaries in a different jurisdiction or recapitalizing or reclassifying our stock; or (ii) a merger or consolidation in which our shareholders immediately prior to such merger or consolidation continue to own at least a majority of the outstanding securities of the surviving entity immediately after the merger or consolidation.

Restricted Stock Agreement

Dr. Mueller is a party to a restricted stock agreement entered into effective as of January 2007. The 2007 restricted stock agreement relates to 15,000 shares of our common stock scheduled to vest on May 6, 2010. This restricted stock agreement is subject to accelerated vesting on the same terms as the restricted stock agreement with Mr. Smith described above.

Nancy J. Wysenski

Employment Agreement

The terms and conditions of Ms. Wysenski's employment are governed by a written employment contract, which was entered into in December 2009. Her employment agreement provides that she is entitled to receive compensation as determined by our board of directors and is eligible to receive the benefits generally made available to our executives.

Under her employment agreement, if (i) Ms. Wysenski's employment is terminated without cause or (ii) Ms. Wysenski terminates her employment with us for good reason within 90 days of the event giving rise to her right to terminate for good reason, subject to notice and cure provisions, she would be entitled to receive:

Severance Payment: The sum of Ms. Wysenski's (i) base salary and (ii) target bonus for the year in which her employment is terminated

Employee Benefits: Continuation of certain employee benefits for up to 12 months

Under the employment agreement, she would have the right to terminate her employment for good reason upon the occurrence of the following events without her consent:

Ms. Wysenski's base salary is decreased, or the target levels under our target bonus program or equity compensation program are reduced, unless each or any such reduction is part of an across-the-board proportionate reduction in the salaries, target bonuses, or target equity compensation of our senior executives;

the office to which she is assigned is relocated to a place 35 or more miles away and such relocation is not at her request or with her prior agreement (and other than in connection with a change in location of our principal executive offices); or

her duties are materially diminished to an extent that results in either (i) her no longer being an officer, as such term is defined in Rule 16a-1(f) promulgated under the Exchange Act; or (ii) her ceasing to be a member of our executive management team.

Under the employment agreement, cause means:

Ms. Wysenski is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude;

Ms. Wysenski willfully refuses or fails to follow a lawful directive or instruction of our board of directors or the individual to whom she reports, provided that we shall have given her prior written notice of the directive or instruction that she failed to follow, and provided, further, that we shall have given her, in good faith, 30 days to correct such failure and further provided that if she corrects such failure, any termination of her employment on account of such failure shall not be treated as a termination of employment for cause;

she violates any of our policies made known to her regarding confidentiality, securities trading or insider information; or

she, in carrying out her duties, commits (A) willful gross negligence or (B) willful gross misconduct resulting, in either case, in material harm to us unless such act, or failure to act, was believed by her, in good faith, to be in our best interests.

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Change of Control Agreement

We have a change of control agreement with Ms. Wysenski, which was entered into in December 2009. Under this agreement, if we terminate her employment without cause on a date within the 90 days prior to or the 12 months after a change of control or she terminates her employment within 30 days of an event giving rise to a right to terminate for good reason, subject to notice and cure provisions, and the event occurs on a date within the 90 days prior to or the 12 months after a change of control, Ms. Wysenski would be entitled to receive:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Severance Payment: | A) The sum of Ms. Wysenski's (i) base salary and (ii) target bonus for the year in which her employment is terminated |
| | B) A pro rata portion of her target bonus for the year in which the termination occurs |
| Options: | Full vesting of all outstanding options |
| Restricted Stock: | Full vesting of all outstanding restricted stock grants |
| Employee Benefits: | Continuation of certain employee benefits for up to 12 months |

Under the change of control agreement, Ms. Wysenski would have the right to terminate her employment for good reason upon the occurrence of the following events without her consent:

her base salary is decreased;

the office to which she is assigned is relocated to a place 35 or more miles away;

her duties are materially diminished to an extent that results in either (i) her no longer being an officer, as such term is defined in Rule 16a-1(f) promulgated under the Exchange Act; or (ii) her ceasing to be a member of our executive management team; or

following a change of control, our successor fails to assume our obligations under the change of control agreement and her employment agreement.

Under the change of control agreement, cause has the same meaning as in her employment agreement and change of control means:

any person or group as such terms are used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d)(2) of the Exchange Act becomes the beneficial owner, as such term is used in Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act, of securities representing more than 50% of the combined voting power of our outstanding securities having the right to vote in the election of directors; or

all or substantially all of our business or assets are sold or disposed of, or we or one of our subsidiaries combines with another company pursuant to a merger, consolidation, or other similar transaction, other than (i) a transaction solely for the purpose of reincorporating us or one of our subsidiaries in a different jurisdiction or recapitalizing or reclassifying our stock; or (ii) a merger or consolidation in which our shareholders immediately prior to such merger or consolidation continue to own at least a majority of the outstanding securities of the surviving entity immediately after the merger or consolidation.

Amit Sachdev

Employment Agreement

The terms and conditions of Mr. Sachdev's employment are governed by a written employment contract, which was entered into in February 2008, amended in December 2008 and amended and restated in February 2010. His employment agreement provides that he is entitled to receive compensation as determined by our board of directors and is eligible to receive the benefits generally made available to our executives.

Under his employment agreement, if (i) Mr. Sachdev's employment is terminated without cause or (ii) Mr. Sachdev terminates his employment with us for good reason within 30 days of the event giving rise to his right to terminate for good reason, subject to notice and cure provisions, he would be entitled to receive:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Severance Payment: | The sum of Mr. Sachdev's (i) base salary and (ii) target bonus for the year in which his employment is terminated |
| Options: | Vesting of outstanding options that would otherwise have vested in the 18 months following termination (excluding the option granted to Mr. Sachdev in October 2009) |
| Restricted Stock: | Vesting of each outstanding restricted stock award that would have otherwise vested in the 18 months following the termination, treating each award that vests other than ratably (such as PARS grants as described on page 42 of this proxy statement) as if it vests ratably over the term of the grant |
| Employee Benefits: | Continuation of certain employee benefits for up to 12 months |

Under the employment agreement, he would have the right to terminate his employment for good reason upon the occurrence of the following events without his consent:

he is assigned to any duties or responsibilities that are inconsistent, in any significant respect, with the scope of duties and responsibilities customarily associated with the position and office of senior vice president, public policy and government affairs, provided that such reassignment of duties or responsibilities is not due to his disability or performance, nor is at his request;

he suffers a reduction in the authorities, duties, and responsibilities associated with his position as senior vice president, public policy and government affairs, provided that such reassignment of duties or responsibilities is not due to his disability or his performance, and is not at his request or with his prior agreement;

Mr. Sachdev's base salary is decreased below \$350,000 per year, unless such reduction is part of an across-the-board proportionate reduction in the salaries of our senior management team; or

his office is relocated 35 or more miles from Washington, D.C. other than in connection with relocation of our offices.

Under the employment agreement, cause means:

he is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude;

Mr. Sachdev willfully refuses or fails to follow a lawful directive or instruction of the board or the individual to whom he reports, provided that he receives prior written notice of the directive or instruction that he failed to follow and provided further that we, in good faith, give him 30 days to correct any problems;

he, in carrying out his duties, commits (A) willful gross negligence or (B) willful gross misconduct resulting, in either case, in material harm to us, unless such act, or failure to act, was believed by him, in good faith, to be in our best interests; or

he violates any of our policies made known to him regarding confidentiality, securities trading or inside information.

Change of Control Agreement

We have a change of control agreement with Mr. Sachdev, which was entered into in February 2008, amended in December 2008, and amended and restated in February 2010. Under this change of control agreement, if we terminate his employment without cause on a date within the 90 days prior to or the 12 months after a change of control or he terminates his employment within 30 days of an event giving rise to a right to terminate for good reason, subject to notice and cure provisions, and the event occurs on a date within the 90 days prior to or the 12 months after a change of control, he would be entitled to receive:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Severance Payment: | A) The sum of Mr. Sachdev's (i) base salary at the time of termination and (ii) target bonus for the year in which his employment is terminated |
| | B) A pro rata portion of his target bonus for the year in which the termination occurs |
| Options: | Full vesting of all outstanding options |
| Restricted Stock: | Full vesting of all outstanding restricted stock grants |
| Employee Benefits: | Continuation of certain employee benefits for up to 12 months |

Under the change of control agreement, Mr. Sachdev would have the right to terminate his employment for good reason upon the occurrence of the following events without his consent:

he is assigned to material duties or responsibilities that are inconsistent, in any significant respect, with the scope of duties and responsibilities associated with his position and office immediately prior to the change of control, provided, that such reassignment of duties or responsibilities is not for cause, due to his disability or at his request;

he suffers a material reduction in the authorities, duties or job title and responsibilities associated with his position and office immediately prior to the change of control, on the basis of which he makes a good faith determination that he can no longer carry out his position or office in the manner contemplated before the change of control (provided that such reduction in authorities, duties, or job title and responsibilities is not for cause, due to his disability or at his request);

his base salary is decreased to a level below \$350,000;

our principal offices, or the location of the office to which he is assigned at the time the agreement was entered into, is relocated to a place 35 or more miles away; or

following a change of control, our successor fails to assume our obligations under the change of control agreement.

Under Mr. Sachdev's change of control agreement, cause has the same meaning as in Mr. Sachdev's employment agreement and change of control means:

any person or group as such terms are used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d)(2) of the Exchange Act becomes the beneficial owner, as such term is used in Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act, of securities representing more than 50% of the combined voting power of our outstanding securities having the right to vote in the election of directors; or

all or substantially all of our business or assets are sold or disposed of, or we or one of our subsidiaries combines with another company pursuant to a merger, consolidation, or other similar transaction, other than (i) a transaction solely for the purpose of reincorporating us or one of our subsidiaries in a different jurisdiction or recapitalizing or reclassifying our stock; or (ii) a merger or consolidation in which our shareholders immediately prior to such merger or consolidation continue to own at least a majority of the outstanding securities of the surviving entity immediately after the merger or consolidation.

Joshua Boger

In February 2009, Dr. Boger entered into a transition agreement with us in connection with our agreement to terminate his employment in May 2009. Under the transition agreement, if a qualifying change of control event occurs prior to December 31, 2010 or we enter into a binding agreement prior to December 31, 2010 to effect a transaction that directly results in a change of control, subject to satisfaction of customary closing conditions, unless Dr. Boger actively participates in the change of control event as a change of control party, he will receive the benefits set forth in the table below:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cash Payment: | \$1,946,457 |
| Options: | Full vesting of all outstanding options |
| Restricted Stock: | Full vesting of all outstanding restricted stock grants |
| Employee Benefits: | Cash value of certain employee benefits for 36 months less amounts previously provided under the transition agreement on account of benefits |
| Tax Benefits: | Additional payments required to compensate Dr. Boger if payments made under his employment arrangements result in certain adverse tax consequences, including excise taxes under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended |

Under Dr. Boger's transition agreement, a change of control shall be deemed to have occurred if:

the change of control is of a type that would be required to be reported in response to Item 6(e) of Schedule 14A of Regulation 14A of the Exchange Act, as amended;

a person, together with its affiliates and associates, becomes the beneficial owner of 20% or more of our voting shares then outstanding (excluding specified securities), unless the acquisition of the shares was an approved transaction;

during any period of 24 months, individuals who were on our board of directors at the beginning of that period plus individuals whose nomination for election to the board by our shareholders was approved by a vote of at least two-thirds of the directors (subject to certain limitations) cease for any reason to constitute a majority of our board; or

our shareholders approve our merger or consolidation with any other corporation, other than (a) a merger or consolidation that would result in our voting shares outstanding immediately prior to that merger or consolidation continuing to represent at least 50% of the combined voting shares of the surviving entity immediately after that merger or consolidation or (b) a merger or consolidation effected to implement a recapitalization in which no person becomes an acquiring person.

Dr. Boger has agreed not to compete with us for the term of the transition agreement and for a period of one year thereafter.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

During 2009, Dr. Brimblecombe, Mr. Sachs and Ms. Ullian were the only members of our MDCC. None of the members of our MDCC has ever been one of our employees or officers or been a party to a transaction required to be disclosed pursuant to Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K. During 2009, none of our executive officers served as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of the board of directors or performed the equivalent functions of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving as a member of our board or the MDCC.

APPROVAL OF RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS AND TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS

Our audit and finance committee reviews and, if appropriate, recommends for approval or ratification by our board of directors, all transactions with related persons that are required to be disclosed by us pursuant to Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K except for our transactions related to the employment of executive officers, which are recommended for approval by the MDCC. Our policies and procedures with respect to transactions with related persons are governed by our written Related Party Transaction Policy. Pursuant to this policy, related party transactions include transactions, arrangements or relationships in which our company is a participant, the amount involved exceeds \$120,000, and one of our executive officers, directors, director nominees or 5% shareholders or their immediate family members, who we refer to as related persons, has a direct or indirect material interest, except where disclosure of such transaction would not be required pursuant to Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K. As appropriate for the circumstances, our audit and finance committee will review and consider the related person's interest in the related party transaction and such other factors as it deems appropriate. Except as follows, since January 1, 2009, we have not had any transactions that would have to be disclosed pursuant to Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

Kenneth S. Boger, our senior vice president and general counsel, is the brother of Dr. Joshua Boger, our former chief executive officer and a continuing member of our board of directors. Mr. Kenneth Boger is an executive officer of the company, and all elements of his compensation, at all times during his employment, have been reviewed and approved by our board of directors, except that Dr. Joshua Boger does not participate in any discussions with respect to Mr. Kenneth Boger's compensation. Mr. Boger was paid \$426,214 in salary for 2009 and received a bonus of \$324,613 for 2009 performance. Also, since January 1, 2009 Mr. Boger was awarded stock option grants for an aggregate of 106,250 shares, with a

weighted-average exercise price of \$33.32 per share, and restricted stock awards for 20,332 shares of our common stock. The aggregate intrinsic value of the equity compensation awards made to Mr. Boger since January 1, 2009, measured on March 31, 2010, using the March 31, 2010 closing price of our common stock of \$40.87, was \$112,659.

In addition, the terms and conditions of Mr. Boger's employment are governed by a written employment contract, which was amended and restated in 2010. Mr. Boger's employment agreement provides that he is entitled to receive compensation as determined by our board of directors and will be eligible to receive the benefits generally made available to our executives. Mr. Boger's agreement also provides that if his employment is terminated under certain circumstances without cause or if he terminates his employment with us of his own initiative for good reason, subject to notice and cure provisions, we will provide him 12 months of severance pay, a pro rata portion of his target bonus for the year in which the termination occurs, 18 months acceleration of the vesting of outstanding stock options and restricted stock, additional payments required to compensate Mr. Boger if such payments and benefits result in certain adverse tax consequences, and continuation of certain employee benefits for up to 12 months. In addition to the foregoing, in the event such termination occurs in connection with a change of control, Mr. Boger would receive full vesting of all outstanding stock options and restricted stock.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth information regarding beneficial ownership of our common stock as of March 17, 2010, by:

each shareholder known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of our common stock on that date;

each director and each nominee for director;

each named executive officer; and

all directors and executive officers as a group.

| Name and Address | Shares Beneficially Owned (1) | Percentage of Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| FMR LLC (2) 82 Devonshire Street Boston, MA 02109 | 22,892,673 | 11.3% |
| BlackRock, Inc. 40 East 52 nd Street New York, NY 10022 | 14,791,617 | 7.3% |
| T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. (3) 100 E. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21202 | 14,211,745 | 7.0% |
| The Growth Fund of America, Inc. 333 South Hope Street Los Angeles, CA 90071 (4) | 12,405,175 | 6.1% |
| Capital World Investors 333 South Hope Street Los Angeles, CA 90071 (5) | 11,476,000 | 5.7% |
| Joshua Boger (6) (7) | 3,162,884 | 1.5% |
| Matthew W. Emmens (7) | 465,892 | * |
| Roger W. Brimblecombe (7) | 102,500 | * |
| Stuart J. M. Collinson (7) | 196,724 | * |
| Eugene H. Cordes (7) | 124,000 | * |
| Jeffrey M. Leiden (7) | 5,625 | * |
| Bruce I. Sachs (7) | 298,710 | * |
| Charles A. Sanders (7) | 236,383 | * |
| Elaine S. Ullian (7) | 102,500 | * |
| Dennis L. Winger (7) | 12,125 | * |
| Peter Mueller (7) | 606,516 | * |
| Ian F. Smith (7) | 331,606 | * |
| Nancy J. Wysenski (7) | 26,250 | * |
| Amit Sachdev (7) | 186,827 | * |
| All directors and executive officers as a group (17 persons) (7) | 6,458,048 | 3.1% |

*

Less than 1%

(1)

Beneficial ownership of shares for purposes of this proxy statement is determined in accordance with applicable Securities and Exchange Commission rules and includes shares of common stock as to which a person has or shares voting power and/or investment power, including dispositive power. The persons and entities named in the table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares shown as beneficially owned by them, except as noted below. Attached to each share of common stock is a Preferred Share Purchase Right to acquire one-half of one hundredth of a share of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share. These rights are not presently exercisable. Information with respect to

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persons other than directors and executive officers is based solely upon Schedules 13G and amendments thereto filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in the first quarter of 2010.

- (2) Fidelity Management & Research Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC, is the beneficial owner of 22,822,505 shares. The ownership of one Fidelity investment company, Fidelity Growth Company Fund, was 10,358,067 shares. Strategic Advisers, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC, provides investment advisory services to individuals and beneficially owns 70,168 shares of our common stock.
- (3) T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. disclaims beneficial ownership of these securities, which may be held by individual and institutional clients for which it serves as an investment advisor, and/or by registered investment companies sponsored by T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc.
- (4) The Growth Fund of America, Inc., an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, is advised by Capital Research and Management Company ("CRMC"). CRMC manages equity assets for various investment companies through two divisions, Capital Research Global Investors and Capital World Investors. These divisions generally function separately from each other with respect to investment research activities and they make investment decisions and proxy voting decisions for the investment companies on a separate basis.
- (5) Capital World Investors is a division of CRMC. A portion of the 11,476,000 shares managed by Capital World Investors may be held by Growth Fund of America, Inc.
- (6) Includes 207,500 shares held in trusts for the benefit of Dr. Boger's children. Dr. Boger disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.
- (7) Includes shares that may be acquired upon the exercise of options exercisable within 60 days after March 17, 2010 and unvested shares of restricted stock as of March 17, 2010 as follows:

| | Stock Options Exercisable Within 60 Days of March 17, 2010 | Unvested Shares of Restricted Stock March 17, 2010 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Joshua Boger | 2,083,203 | 36,365 |
| Matthew W. Emmens | 283,687 | 181,330 |
| Roger W. Brimblecombe | 102,500 | |
| Stuart J.M. Collinson | 193,445 | |
| Eugene H. Cordes | 110,000 | |
| Jeffrey M. Leiden | 5,625 | |
| Bruce I. Sachs | 130,000 | |
| Charles A. Sanders | 210,000 | |
| Elaine S. Ullian | 97,500 | |
| Dennis L. Winger | 5,625 | |
| Peter Mueller | 477,147 | 62,128 |
| Ian F. Smith | 254,086 | 54,877 |
| Nancy J. Wysenski | 6,250 | 20,000 |
| Amit Sachdev | 135,435 | 40,032 |
| All directors and executive officers as a group (17 persons) | 4,539,435 | 466,620 |

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires directors, officers, and persons who are beneficial owners of more than 10% of our common stock to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission reports of their ownership of our securities and of changes in that ownership. To our knowledge, based upon a review of copies of reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 and written representations by our directors and officers that no other reports were required with respect to their transactions, all reports required to be filed under Section 16(a) by our directors and officers and persons who were beneficial owners of more than 10% of our common stock were timely filed, except that Dr. Cordes, a member of our board, filed late one Form 4 with respect to one transaction.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS

We have adopted a Code of Conduct and Ethics that applies to all of our directors and employees, including our chief executive officer and chief financial and accounting officers. Our Code of Conduct and Ethics is available on our website www.vrtx.com under "Finances/Investor Info Corporate Governance Governance Documents." Disclosure regarding any amendments to, or waivers from, provisions of the Code of Conduct and Ethics that apply to our directors or principal executive or financial officers will be included in a Current Report on Form 8-K within four business days following the date of the amendment or waiver, unless website posting of such amendments or waivers is then permitted by the rules of The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC.

SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Generally, shareholders who have questions or concerns should contact our investor relations department at (617) 444-6100. However, any shareholder who wishes to address questions regarding our business directly with our board of directors, or any individual director, should direct his or her questions, in writing, in care of our corporate secretary, to our offices at 130 Waverly Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Under procedures approved by our board, including a majority of our independent directors, all substantive communications shall be reviewed by our corporate secretary and forwarded or reported to the chair of the corporate governance and nominating committee, the independent directors and/or our full board, as deemed appropriate, with the exception of those communications relating to ordinary or routine business affairs, personal grievances or matters as to which we tend to receive repetitive or duplicative communications.

OTHER MATTERS

The 2010 annual meeting is called for the purposes set forth in the notice. Our board of directors does not know of any other matters to be considered by the shareholders at the annual meeting other than the matters described in the notice. However, the enclosed proxy confers discretionary authority on the persons named in the proxy card with respect to matters that may properly come before the annual meeting and that are not known to our board at the date this proxy statement was printed. It is the intention of the persons named in the proxy card to vote in accordance with their best judgment on any such matter.

HOUSEHOLDING OF ANNUAL MEETING MATERIALS

Some banks, brokers and other nominee record holders may be participating in the practice of "householding" proxy statements and annual reports. This means that only one copy of our proxy statement and annual report may have been sent to multiple shareholders in your household. We will promptly deliver a separate copy of these documents to you if you write or call our corporate secretary at the following address or phone number: 130 Waverly Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, telephone (617) 444-6100. If you want to receive separate copies of the annual report and proxy statement in the future, or if you are receiving multiple copies and would like to receive only one copy for your household, you should contact your bank, broker, or other nominee record holder, or you may contact us at the above address and phone number.

SOLICITATION

We will bear the cost of soliciting proxies, including expenses in connection with preparing and mailing this proxy statement. We have retained D. F. King & Co., Inc. to assist in the solicitation of proxies at an estimated cost of approximately \$10,000. Proxies may also be solicited by our directors and employees by mail, by telephone, in person or otherwise. Employees will not receive additional compensation for solicitation efforts. In addition, we will request banks, brokers and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to forward proxy material to the beneficial owners of common stock and to obtain voting instructions from the beneficial owners. We will reimburse those firms for their reasonable expenses in forwarding proxy materials and obtaining voting instructions.

SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING AND NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTOR

In order to be considered for inclusion in the proxy statement for our 2011 annual meeting of shareholders, shareholder proposals must be received by us no later than December 17, 2010. If we do not receive notice of a matter to be considered for presentation at the 2011 annual meeting by March 2, 2011, our proxy holders will have the right to exercise discretionary voting authority with respect to the proposal without including information regarding the proposal in our proxy materials. Proposals should be sent to the attention of our corporate secretary at our offices at 130 Waverly Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.

Shareholder nominations for election to our board of directors at the 2011 annual meeting of shareholders may be submitted to our corporate secretary no later than February 12, 2011, and must include:

the name and address of the shareholder who intends to make the nomination and of the person or persons to be nominated;

a representation that the shareholder is a holder of record of our stock entitled to vote at such meeting and intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate the person or persons specified in the notice;

a description of all arrangements or understandings between the shareholder and each nominee and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the nomination or nominations are to be made by the shareholder;

the other information regarding each nominee proposed by the shareholder that would be required to be included in a proxy statement filed pursuant to the proxy rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission; and

the consent of each nominee to serve on our board of directors if so elected.

AVAILABILITY OF MATERIALS

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which provides additional information about us, is available on the internet at www.vrtx.com and is available in paper form (other than exhibits thereto) to beneficial owners of our common stock without charge upon written request to Investor Relations, 130 Waverly Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. In addition, it is available to holders of record of our common stock at www.envisionreports.com/vrtx and to beneficial holders of our common stock at www.edocumentview.com/vrtx.

By order of the Board of Directors

KENNETH S. BOGER
Secretary

April 14, 2010

Appendix A

**VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED
AMENDED AND RESTATED 2006 STOCK and OPTION PLAN**

1. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise specified or unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms, as used in this Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated Amended and Restated 2006 Stock and Option Plan, have the following meanings:

Administrator means the Board of Directors and/or a committee of the Board of Directors to which the Board of Directors has delegated power to act on its behalf in administering this Plan in whole or in part.

Affiliate means a corporation that, for purposes of Section 424 of the Code, is a parent or subsidiary of the Company, direct or indirect.

Board of Directors means the Board of Directors of the Company.

Code means the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Common Stock means shares of the Company's common stock, \$.01 par value.

Company means Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated, a Massachusetts corporation.

Employee means an employee of the Company or of an Affiliate (including, without limitation, an employee who is also serving as an officer or director of the Company or of an Affiliate), designated by the Administrator to be eligible to be granted one or more Stock Rights under the Plan.

Exchange Act means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Fair Market Value of a Share of Common Stock on a particular date shall be the mean between the highest and lowest quoted selling prices on such date (the "valuation date") on the securities market where the Common Stock is traded, or if there were no sales on the valuation date, on the next preceding date within a reasonable period (as determined in the sole discretion of the Administrator) on which there were sales. If there were no sales in such a market within a reasonable period, the fair market value shall be as determined in good faith by the Administrator in its sole discretion. The Fair Market Value as determined in this paragraph shall be rounded down to the next lower whole cent if the foregoing calculation results in fractional cents.

ISO means an option intended to qualify as an incentive stock option under Code Section 422.

Non-Employee Director means a member of the Board of Directors who is not an employee of the Company or any Affiliate.

Non-Qualified Option means an option that is not intended to qualify as an ISO.

Option means an ISO or Non-Qualified Option granted under the Plan.

Participant means an Employee, Non-Employee Director, consultant or advisor of the Company or an Affiliate to whom one or more Stock Rights are granted under the Plan. As used herein, "Participant" shall include "Participant's Survivors" and a Participant's permitted transferees where the context requires.

Participant's Survivors means a deceased Participant's legal representatives and/or any person or persons who acquires the Participant's rights to a Stock Right by will or by the laws of descent and distribution.

Plan means this Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated Amended and Restated 2006 Stock and Option Plan, as amended from time to time.

Shares means shares of the Common Stock as to which Stock Rights have been or may be granted under the Plan or any shares of capital stock into which the Shares are changed or for which they are exchanged within the provisions of Section 3 of the Plan. The Shares subject to Stock Rights granted under the Plan may be authorized and unissued shares or shares held by the Company in its treasury, or both.

Stock Agreement means an agreement between the Company and a Participant delivered pursuant to the Plan with respect to a Stock Right, in such form as the Administrator shall approve.

Stock-Based Award means a grant by the Company under the Plan of an equity award or equity-based award that is not an Option or Stock Grant.

Stock Grant means a grant by the Company of Shares under the Plan.

Stock Right means a right to Shares or the value of Shares of the Company granted pursuant to the Plan as an ISO, a Non-Qualified Option, a Stock Grant or a Stock-Based Award.

2. PURPOSES OF THE PLAN

The Plan is intended to encourage ownership of Shares by Employees, Non-Employee Directors and certain consultants and advisors to the Company in order to attract such persons, to induce them to work for the benefit of the Company or of an Affiliate and to provide additional incentive for them to promote the success of the Company or of an Affiliate. The Plan provides for the granting of Stock Rights to Employees, Non-Employee Directors, consultants and advisors of the Company.

3. SHARES SUBJECT TO THE PLAN

The number of Shares subject to this Plan as to which Stock Rights may be granted from time to time shall be 13,902,380 or the equivalent of such number of Shares after the Administrator, in its sole discretion, has interpreted the effect of any stock split, stock dividend, combination, recapitalization or similar transaction in accordance with Section 17 of this Plan. The number of Shares subject to this Plan shall be reduced, share for share, by the number of shares underlying Stock Rights, if any, that are granted under the Company's 2007 New Hire Stock and Option Plan after March 17, 2008.

If an Option granted hereunder ceases to be outstanding, in whole or in part (other than by exercise), or if the Company shall reacquire (at no more than its original issuance price) any Shares issued pursuant to a Stock Grant, or if any Stock Right expires or is forfeited, cancelled or otherwise terminated or results in any Shares not being issued, the unissued Shares that were subject to such Stock Right shall again be available for issuance from time to time pursuant to this Plan; provided that, the following Shares may not again be made available for issuance as Awards under the Plan: (i) Shares that are not issued or delivered as a result of the net settlement of an outstanding Stock-Based Award or Option and (ii) Shares that the Company acquires from a Participant for a price that is more than the original issuance price of the Share, including any Share acquired by the Company to fund employee payroll tax withholding obligations on a Stock Grant or Shares applied to payment of the exercise price for an Option.

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After May 14, 2008, the number Shares that may be subject to or delivered pursuant to any form of Stock Right other than an Option shall not exceed 20% of the aggregate of (A) the number of Shares available as to which Stock Rights may be granted under this Plan on May 15, 2008 (taking in account the Shares added on such date, but which amount does not include those 536,625 Shares as to which the Company granted Options on February 7, 2008, subject to obtaining subsequent shareholder approval of such Options) and (B) any Shares that again become available for issuance on or after May 15, 2008 pursuant to the preceding paragraph.

4. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PLAN

The Administrator shall administer the Plan. Subject to the provisions of the Plan, the Administrator is authorized to:

- a. Interpret the provisions of the Plan and of any Stock Right or Stock Agreement and to make all rules and determinations that it deems necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan;
- b. Determine which Employees, Non-Employee Directors, consultants and advisors of the Company and its Affiliates shall be granted Stock Rights;
- c. Determine the number of Shares and exercise price for which a Stock Right shall be granted;
- d. Specify the terms and conditions upon which a Stock Right or Stock Rights may be granted;
- e. In its discretion, accelerate:
 - (i) the date of exercise of any installment of any Option; provided that the Administrator shall not, without the consent of the Option holder accelerate the exercise date of any installment of any Option granted to any Employee as an ISO (and not previously converted into a Non-Qualified Option pursuant to Section 20) if such acceleration would violate the annual vesting limitation contained in Section 422(d) of the Code, as described in Section 6.2.3; or
 - (ii) the date or dates of vesting of Shares, or lapsing of Company repurchase rights with respect to any Shares, under any Stock Rights; and
- f. In its discretion, extend the exercise date for any Option;

provided, however, that all such interpretations, rules, determinations, terms and conditions shall be made and prescribed in the context of preserving the tax status under Code Section 422 of those Options which are designated as ISOs (unless the holder of any such Option otherwise agrees). Subject to the foregoing, the interpretation and construction by the Administrator of any provisions of the Plan or of any Stock Right granted under it shall be final, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, if the Administrator is other than the Board of Directors.

The Administrator may employ attorneys, consultants, accountants or other persons, and the Administrator, the Company and its officers and directors shall be entitled to rely upon the advice, opinions or valuations of such persons. All actions taken and all interpretations and determinations made by the Administrator in good faith shall be final and binding upon the Company, all Participants, and all other interested persons. No member or agent of the Administrator shall be personally liable for any action, determination, or interpretation made in good faith with respect to this Plan or grants hereunder. Each member of the Administrator shall be indemnified and held harmless by the Company against any cost or expense (including counsel fees) reasonably incurred by him or her or any liability (including any

sum paid in settlement of a claim with the approval of the Company) arising out of any act or omission to act in connection with this Plan unless arising out of such member's own fraud or bad faith. Such indemnification shall be in addition to any rights of indemnification the members of the Administrator may have as directors or otherwise under the by-laws of the Company, or any agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors, or otherwise.

5. ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION

The Administrator shall, in its sole discretion, name the Participants in the Plan, provided, however, that each Participant must be a Employee, Non-Employee Director, consultant or advisor of the Company or of an Affiliate at the time a Stock Right is granted. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Administrator may authorize the grant of a Stock Right to a person not then an Employee, Non-Employee Director, consultant or advisor of the Company or of an Affiliate; *provided, however*, that the actual grant of such Stock Right shall be conditioned upon such person becoming eligible to become a Participant at or prior to the time of execution of the Stock Agreement evidencing such Stock Right. ISOs may be granted only to Employees. The granting of any Stock Right to any individual shall neither entitle that individual to, nor disqualify him or her from, participation in other grants of Stock Rights.

6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF OPTIONS

6.1 *General.* Each Option shall be set forth in writing in a Stock Agreement, duly executed by the Company and, to the extent required by law or requested by the Company, by the Participant. The Administrator may provide that Options be granted subject to such terms and conditions, consistent with the terms and conditions specifically required under this Plan, as the Administrator may deem appropriate including, without limitation, subsequent approval by the stockholders of the Company of this Plan or any amendments thereto. Each Stock Agreement shall state the option price (per share) of the Shares covered by each Option, the number of Shares to which it pertains, the date or dates on which it first is exercisable and the date after which it may no longer be exercised (subject to Sections 11, 12 and 13 of this Plan). Option rights may accrue or become exercisable in installments over a period of time, or upon the achievement of certain conditions or the attainment of stated goals or events. The Option Price per share of Shares covered by an Option (including both ISOs and Non-Qualified Options) shall not be less than one hundred percent (100%) of the Fair Market Value per share of the Common Stock on the date of grant.

6.2 *ISOs.* Each Option intended to be an ISO shall be issued only to Employees. In addition to the minimum standards set forth in Section 6.1, ISOs shall be subject to the following terms and conditions, with such additional restrictions or changes as the Administrator determines are appropriate but not in conflict with Code Section 422 and relevant regulations and rulings of the Internal Revenue Service:

6.2.1 *ISO Option Price.* In addition to the limitation set forth in Section 6.1, the Option price per share of the Shares covered by each ISO granted to a Participant who owns, directly or by reason of the applicable attribution rules in Code Section 424(d), more than ten percent (10%) of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or an Affiliate shall not be less than one hundred ten percent (110%) of the Fair Market Value on the date of grant.

6.2.2 *Term of ISO.* Each ISO shall expire not more than ten (10) years from the date of grant; provided, however, that an ISO granted to a Participant who owns, directly or by reason of the applicable attribution rules in Code Section 424(d), more than ten percent (10%) of the total

combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or an Affiliate shall expire not more than five (5) years from the date of grant.

6.2.3 Annual Limit on Incentive Stock Options. To the extent required for "incentive stock option" treatment under Section 422 of the Code, the aggregate Fair Market Value (determined as of the time of grant) of the Shares with respect to which ISOs granted under this Plan and any other plan of the Company or its Affiliate become exercisable for the first time by a Participant during any calendar year shall not exceed the aggregate threshold for ISOs established by the Code (\$100,000 as of March 22, 2006). To the extent that any Option exceeds this limit, it shall constitute a Non-Qualified Option.

6.3 Non-Employee Directors' Options. Each Non-Employee Director, upon first being elected or appointed to the Board of Directors, shall be granted a Non-Qualified Option to purchase that number of Shares as shall be established for such Option grants from time to time by the Board of Directors. Each such Option shall (i) have an exercise price equal to the Fair Market Value (per share) on the date of grant of the Option, (ii) have a term of ten (10) years, and (iii) shall become cumulatively exercisable in sixteen (16) equal quarterly installments, upon completion of each full quarter of service on the Board of Directors after the date of grant. In addition, on June 1 of each year, each Non-Employee Director shall be granted a Non-Qualified Option to purchase that number of Shares as shall be established for such Option grants from time to time by the Board of Directors. Each such Option shall (i) have an exercise price equal to the Fair Market Value (per share) on the date of grant of such Option, (ii) have a term of ten (10) years, and (iii) be exercisable in full immediately on the date of grant. Any director entitled to receive an Option grant under this Section may elect to decline the Option. If a Non-Employee Director ceases to be any of an Employee, Non-Employee Director, consultant or advisor of the Company, Options granted under this Section 6.3 shall remain exercisable to the extent such Options are exercisable on the date of such termination of service, for their full term, and the provisions of Sections 11 and 13 below shall not apply to any such Options.

6.4 Limitation on Number of Options Granted. Notwithstanding anything in this Plan to the contrary, no Participant shall be granted an aggregate of Options and/or Stock-Based Awards under this Plan in any calendar year for more than an aggregate of 600,000 Shares (subject to adjustment pursuant to Section 17 to the extent consistent with Section 162(m) of the Code).

7. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF STOCK GRANTS

Each Stock Grant shall be set forth in a Stock Agreement, duly executed by the Company and, to the extent required by law or requested by the Company, by the Participant. The Stock Agreement shall be in the form approved by the Administrator, with such changes and modifications to such form as the Administrator, in its discretion, shall approve with respect to any particular Participant or Participants. The Stock Agreement shall contain terms and conditions that the Administrator determines to be appropriate and in the best interest of the Company; provided, however, that the purchase price per share of the Shares covered by each Stock Grant shall not be less than the par value per Share. Each Stock Agreement shall state the number of Shares to which the Stock Grant pertains and the terms of any right of the Company to reacquire the Shares subject to the Stock Grant, including the time and events upon which such rights shall accrue and the purchase price therefor, and any restrictions on the transferability of such Shares.

8. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF OTHER STOCK-BASED AWARDS

The Administrator shall have the right to grant other Stock-Based Awards having such terms and conditions as the Administrator may determine, including, without limitation, the grant of Shares based upon certain conditions, the grant of securities convertible into Shares and the grant of stock appreciation rights, phantom stock awards or stock units. The principal terms of each Stock-Based Award shall be set forth in a Stock Agreement, duly executed by the Company and, to the extent required by law or requested by the Company, by the Participant. The Stock Agreement shall be in a form approved by the Administrator and shall contain terms and conditions that the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

9. EXERCISE OF OPTIONS AND ISSUANCE OF SHARES

An Option (or any part or installment thereof) shall be exercised by giving written notice to the Company or its designee, together with provision for payment of the full purchase price in accordance with this Section for the Shares as to which the Option is being exercised, and upon compliance with any other conditions set forth in the Stock Agreement. Such notice shall be signed by the person exercising the Option, shall state the number of Shares with respect to which the Option is being exercised and shall contain any representation required by the Plan or the Stock Agreement.

Payment of the purchase price for the Shares as to which such Option is being exercised shall be made (a) in United States dollars in cash or by check acceptable to the Administrator, or (b) at the discretion of the Administrator, (i) through delivery of shares of Common Stock not subject to any restriction under any plan and having a Fair Market Value equal as of the date of exercise to the cash exercise price of the Option, (ii) in accordance with a cashless exercise program established with a securities brokerage firm, and approved by the Company, (iii) by any other means (excluding, however, delivery of a promissory note of the Participant) that the Administrator determines to be consistent with the purpose of this Plan and applicable law, or (iv) by any combination of the foregoing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Administrator shall accept only such payment on exercise of an ISO as is permitted by Section 422 of the Code.

The Company shall then as soon as is reasonably practicable deliver the Shares as to which such Option was exercised to the Participant (or to the Participant's Survivors, as the case may be). It is expressly understood that the Company may delay the delivery of the Shares in order to comply with any law or regulation that requires the Company to take any action with respect to the Shares prior to their issuance. The Shares shall, upon delivery, be fully paid, non-assessable Shares.

10. ASSIGNABILITY AND TRANSFERABILITY OF STOCK RIGHTS

By its terms, a Stock Right granted to a Participant shall not be transferable by the Participant other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution or pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order as defined by the Code or Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act or the rules thereunder or as approved by the Administrator in its discretion and set forth in the applicable Stock Agreement, provided, however, that the Administrator shall not approve any transfer of a Stock Right for consideration. Except as provided in the preceding sentence or as otherwise permitted under a Stock Agreement, a Stock Right shall be exercisable, during the Participant's lifetime only by such Participant (or by his or her legal representative) and shall not be assigned, pledged or hypothecated in any way (whether by operation of law or otherwise) and shall not be subject to execution, attachment or similar process. Any attempted transfer, assignment, pledge, hypothecation or other disposition of any Stock Right or of any

rights granted thereunder contrary to the provisions of this Plan, or the levy of any attachment or similar process upon a Stock Right, shall be null and void.

11. EFFECT ON STOCK RIGHTS OF TERMINATION OF SERVICE

11.1 Except as otherwise provided in the applicable Stock Agreement or as otherwise provided in Sections 12 or 13, if a Participant ceases to be an Employee, Non-Employee Director, consultant or advisor with the Company and its Affiliates (for any reason other than termination for "cause," or death) (a "Termination of Service") before the Participant has exercised all Stock Rights, the Participant may exercise any Stock Right granted to him or her to the extent that the Stock Right is exercisable on the date of such Termination of Service. Any such Stock Right must be exercised within three months after the date of the Participant's Termination of Service, unless otherwise provided in the applicable Stock Agreement, but in no event after the expiration of the term of the Stock Right.

11.2 The provisions of this Section, and not the provisions of Section 14, shall apply to a Participant who subsequently dies after the Termination of Service; provided, however, that in the case of a Participant's death within three (3) months after the Termination of Service, the Participant's Survivors may exercise the Stock Right within one (1) year after the date of the Participant's death, but in no event after the date of expiration of the term of the Stock Right.

11.3 Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, if subsequent to a Participant's Termination of Service, but prior to the exercise of a Stock Right, the Administrator determines that, either prior or subsequent to the Participant's Termination of Service, the Participant engaged in conduct which would constitute "cause" (as defined in Section 12), then such Participant shall forthwith cease to have any right to exercise any Stock Right. Stock Rights that consist of Shares issued under Stock Grants for which any restrictions on transfer or Company repurchase right shall have lapsed, shall be deemed for all purposes to have been "exercised."

11.4 Absence from work with the Company or an Affiliate because of temporary disability or a leave of absence for any purpose, shall not, during the period of any such absence in accordance with Company policies, be deemed, by virtue of such absence alone, a Termination of Service, except as the Administrator may otherwise expressly provide.

11.5 Except as required by law or as set forth in a Participant's Stock Agreement, Stock Rights granted under the Plan shall not be affected by any change of a Participant's status within or among the Company and any Affiliates, so long as the Participant continues to be an employee, director, consultant or advisor of the Company or any Affiliate.

12. EFFECT ON STOCK RIGHTS OF TERMINATION OF SERVICE FOR "CAUSE"

Except as otherwise provided in a Participant's Stock Agreement or as otherwise agreed in writing by the Administrator, if a Participant's service with the Company or an Affiliate is terminated for "cause," all outstanding and unexercised (vested or unvested) Stock Rights will immediately be forfeited as of the time the Participant is notified that his or her service is terminated for "cause." Stock Rights that consist of Shares issued under Stock Grants for which any restrictions on transfer or Company repurchase right shall have lapsed, shall be deemed for all purposes to have been "exercised." For purposes of this Plan, "cause" shall include (and is not limited to) dishonesty with respect to the Company and its Affiliates, insubordination, substantial malfeasance or non-feasance of duty, unauthorized disclosure of confidential information, breach by the Participant of any provision of any employment, consulting, advisory,

nondisclosure, non-competition or similar agreement between the Participant and the Company, and conduct substantially prejudicial to the business of the Company or any Affiliate. The determination of the Administrator as to the existence of cause will be conclusive on the Participant and the Company. "Cause" is not limited to events that have occurred prior to a Participant's termination of service, nor is it necessary that the Administrator's finding of "cause" occur prior to termination of service. If the Administrator determines, subsequent to a Participant's termination of service but prior to the exercise of a Stock Right, that either prior or subsequent to the Participant's termination of service the Participant engaged in conduct which would constitute "cause," then the right to exercise any Stock Right shall be forfeited as set forth in this Section 12. Any definition in an agreement between a Participant and the Company or an Affiliate which contains a conflicting definition of "cause" for termination of service and which is in effect at the time of such termination of service shall supersede the definition in this Plan with respect to that Participant.

13. EFFECT ON STOCK RIGHTS OF DEATH WHILE AN EMPLOYEE, DIRECTOR, CONSULTANT OR ADVISOR

Except as otherwise provided in a Participant's Stock Agreement, in the event of death of a Participant while the Participant is an Employee, Non-Employee Director, consultant or advisor of the Company or of an Affiliate, any Stock Rights granted to such Participant may be exercised by the Participant's Survivors to the extent exercisable but not exercised on the date of death. Any such Stock Right must be exercised within one (1) year after the date of death of the Participant but in no event after the date of expiration of the term of the Stock Right, notwithstanding that the decedent might have been able to exercise the Stock Right as to some or all of the Shares on a later date if he or she had not died and had continued to be an Employee, Non-Employee Director, consultant or advisor.

14. RIGHTS AS A STOCKHOLDER

No Participant to whom a Stock Right (other than a Stock Grant) has been granted shall have rights as a stockholder with respect to any Shares covered by such Stock Right, except after due exercise thereof and/or tender of the full purchase price for the Shares being purchased pursuant to such exercise. The provisions of this Section 14 shall not be applicable to Shares issued pursuant to Stock Grants, provided that the Participant shall have tendered the purchase price therefore, notwithstanding the existence of stock transfer restrictions on or a Company repurchase right with respect to such Shares.

15. EMPLOYMENT OR OTHER RELATIONSHIP

Nothing in this Plan or any Stock Agreement shall be deemed to prevent the Company or an Affiliate from terminating the employment, consultancy or director status of a Participant, or to prevent a Participant from terminating his or her own employment, consultancy or director status or to give any Participant a right to be retained in employment or other service by the Company or any Affiliate for any period of time.

16. DISSOLUTION OR LIQUIDATION OF THE COMPANY

Upon the dissolution or liquidation of the Company (other than in connection with a transaction subject to the provisions of Section 17.2), all Stock Rights granted under this Plan which as of such date shall not have been exercised will terminate and become null and void; provided, however, that if the rights of a Participant or a Participant's Survivors have not otherwise terminated and expired, the Participant or

Participant's Survivors will have the right immediately prior to such dissolution or liquidation to exercise any Stock Right to the extent that such Stock Right is exercisable as of the date immediately prior to such dissolution or liquidation. Upon the dissolution or liquidation of the Company, any outstanding Stock-Based Awards shall immediately terminate unless otherwise determined by the Administrator or specifically provided in the applicable Stock Agreement.

17. ADJUSTMENTS

Upon the occurrence of any of the following events, a Participant's rights with respect to any Stock Right granted to him or her hereunder that have not previously been exercised in full shall be adjusted as hereinafter provided, unless otherwise specifically provided in the Stock Agreement or in any employment agreement between a Participant and the Company or an Affiliate:

17.1 *Stock Dividends and Stock Splits.* If the shares of Common Stock shall be subdivided or combined into a greater or smaller number of shares or if the Company shall issue any shares of Common Stock as a stock dividend on its outstanding Common Stock, the number of shares of Common Stock subject to or deliverable upon the exercise of a Stock Right shall be appropriately increased or decreased, and appropriate adjustments shall be made in the purchase price per Share to reflect such event. The number of Shares subject to Options to be granted to Non-Employee Directors pursuant to Section 6.3 and the number of Shares subject to the limitation in Section 6.4 shall also be proportionately adjusted upon the occurrence of such events.

17.2 *Consolidations or Mergers.* In the event of a consolidation or merger in which the Company is not the surviving corporation or which results in the acquisition of substantially all the Company's outstanding stock by a single person or entity or by a group of persons and/or entities acting in concert, or in the event of the sale or transfer of substantially all the Company's assets (any of the foregoing, an "Acquisition"), all then outstanding Stock Rights (excluding any Shares subject to Stock Grants as to which all Company repurchase rights shall have lapsed) shall terminate unless assumed pursuant to clause (i) below; provided that either (i) the Administrator shall provide for the surviving or acquiring entity or an affiliate thereof to assume the outstanding Stock Rights or grant replacement stock rights in lieu thereof, any such replacement to be upon an equitable basis as determined by the Administrator, or (ii) if there is no such assumption or substitution, all outstanding Stock Rights shall become immediately and fully exercisable and all Company repurchase rights with respect to Stock Rights shall lapse, in each case immediately prior to the Acquisition, notwithstanding any restrictions or vesting conditions set forth therein.

17.3 *Recapitalization or Reorganization.* In the event of a recapitalization or reorganization of the Company (other than a transaction described in Section 17.2 above) pursuant to which securities of the Company or of another corporation are issued with respect to the outstanding shares of Common Stock, a Participant upon exercising a Stock Right shall be entitled to receive for the purchase price paid upon such exercise the securities he or she would have received if he or she had exercised such Stock Right prior to such recapitalization or reorganization.

17.4 *Adjustments to Stock Grants and Stock-Based Awards.* Upon the happening of any of the events described in Sections 17.1, 17.2 or 17.3, any outstanding Stock-Based Award and the Shares subject to any Stock Grant, vested or unvested, shall be appropriately adjusted to reflect the events described in such Sections. The Administrator shall determine the specific adjustments to be made under this Section 17.4.

17.5 *Modification of ISOs.* Notwithstanding the foregoing, any adjustments made pursuant to Section 17.1, 17.2 or 17.3 with respect to ISOs shall be made only after the Administrator determines whether such adjustments would constitute a "modification" of such ISOs (as that term is defined in Section 424(h) of the Code) or would cause any adverse tax consequences for the holders of such ISOs. If the Administrator determines that such adjustments made with respect to ISOs would constitute a modification of such ISOs, it may refrain from making such adjustments, unless the holder of an ISO specifically requests in writing that such adjustment be made and such writing indicates that the holder has full knowledge of the consequences of such "modification" on his or her income tax treatment with respect to the ISO.

18. ISSUANCES OF SECURITIES

Except as expressly provided herein, no issuance (including for this purpose the delivery of shares held in treasury) by the Company of shares of stock of any class, or securities convertible into shares of stock of any class, shall affect, and no adjustment by reason thereof shall be made with respect to, the number or price of Shares subject to Stock Rights. Except as expressly provided herein, no adjustments shall be made for dividends paid in cash or in property (including without limitation, securities) of the Company.

19. FRACTIONAL SHARES

No fractional share shall be issued under the Plan and the person exercising any Stock Right shall receive from the Company cash in lieu of any such fractional share equal to the Fair Market Value thereof.

20. CONVERSION OF ISOs INTO NON-QUALIFIED OPTIONS: TERMINATION OF ISOs

Any Options granted under this Plan that do not meet the requirements of the Code for ISOs shall automatically be deemed to be Non-Qualified Options without further action on the part of the Administrator. The Administrator, at the written request of any Participant, may in its discretion take such actions as may be necessary to convert such Participant's ISOs (or any portion thereof) that have not been exercised on the date of conversion into Non-Qualified Options at any time prior to the expiration of such ISOs, regardless of whether the Participant is an employee of the Company or an Affiliate at the time of such conversion. At the time of such conversion, the Administrator (with the consent of the Participant) may impose such conditions on the exercise of the resulting Non-Qualified Options as the Administrator in its discretion may determine, provided that such conditions shall not be inconsistent with this Plan. Nothing in the Plan shall be deemed to give any Participant the right to have such Participant's ISOs converted into Non-Qualified Options, and no such conversion shall occur until and unless the Administrator takes appropriate action. The Administrator, with the consent of the Participant, may also terminate any portion of any ISO that has not been exercised at the time of such termination.

21. WITHHOLDING

If any federal, state, or local income taxes, employment taxes, Federal Insurance Contributions Act ("FICA") withholdings or other amounts are required by applicable law or governmental regulation to be withheld from the Participant's salary, wages or other remuneration in connection with the exercise of a Stock Right, the lapsing of a Company repurchase right or a Disqualifying Disposition (as defined in Section 22), the Company may withhold from the Participant's compensation, if any, or may require that the Participant advance in cash to the Company, or to any Affiliate of the Company which employs or employed the Participant, the amount of such withholdings unless a different withholding arrangement,

including the use of shares of the Company's Common Stock, is authorized by the Administrator (and permitted by law). For purposes hereof, the Fair Market Value of any shares withheld for purposes of payroll withholding shall be determined in the manner provided in Section 1 above, as of the most recent practicable date prior to the date of exercise. If the Fair Market Value of the shares withheld is less than the amount of payroll withholdings required, the Participant may be required to advance the difference in cash to the Company or the Affiliate employer. The Administrator in its discretion may condition the exercise of an Option for less than the then Fair Market Value on the Participant's payment of such additional withholding. In no event shall shares be withheld from any award in satisfaction of tax withholding requirements in an amount that exceeds the statutory minimum amount of tax withholding required.

22. NOTICE TO COMPANY OF DISQUALIFYING DISPOSITION

Each Employee who receives an ISO must agree to notify the Company in writing immediately after the Employee makes a "Disqualifying Disposition" of any Shares acquired pursuant to the exercise of an ISO. A Disqualifying Disposition is any disposition (as defined in Section 424(c) of the Code) of such Shares before the later of (a) two years from the date the Employee was granted the ISO, or (b) one year after the date the Employee acquired Shares by exercising the ISO. If the Employee has died before such Shares are sold, the notice provisions of this Section 22 shall not apply.

23. EFFECTIVE DATE; TERMINATION OF THE PLAN

This Plan shall be effective on March 29, 2006, the date of its adoption by the Board of Directors, subject to approval by the shareholders of the Company. The Plan will terminate on March 28, 2016. The Plan also may be terminated at an earlier date by vote of the Board of Directors. Termination of this Plan will not affect any Stock Rights granted or Stock Agreements executed prior to the effective date of such termination.

24. AMENDMENT OF THE PLAN; AMENDMENT OF STOCK RIGHTS

The Plan may be amended by the stockholders of the Company by affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the stockholders at which a quorum is present. The Plan also may be amended by the Board of Directors or the Administrator, including, without limitation, to the extent necessary to qualify any or all outstanding Stock Rights granted under the Plan or Stock Rights to be granted under the Plan for favorable federal income tax treatment (including deferral of taxation upon exercise) as may be afforded incentive stock options under Section 422 of the Code, and to the extent necessary to qualify the shares issuable upon exercise of any outstanding Stock Rights granted, or Stock Rights to be granted, under the Plan for listing on any national securities exchange or quotation in any national automated quotation system of securities dealers. Any amendment approved by the Administrator that the Administrator determines is of a scope that requires stockholder approval shall be subject to stockholder approval. No modification or amendment of the Plan shall adversely affect a Participant's rights under a Stock Right previously granted to the Participant, without such Participant's consent.

In its discretion, the Administrator may amend any term or condition of any outstanding Stock Right, provided: (i) such term or condition is not prohibited by the Plan; (ii) if the amendment is adverse to the Participant, such amendment shall be made only with the consent of the Participant or the Participant's Survivors, as the case may be; and (iii) any such amendment of any ISO shall be made only after the Administrator determines whether such amendment would constitute a "modification" of any Stock Right

which is an ISO (as that term is defined in Section 424(h) of the Code) or would cause any adverse tax consequences for the holder of such ISO (in which case, the Participant's or Participant's Survivors' consent to such amendment shall be required). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Administrator shall not have the authority to reduce the exercise price of any Option after the date of grant, except for adjustments permitted under Section 17 of this Plan.

25. GOVERNING LAW

This Plan shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the law of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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**AMENDMENT NO. 1
TO THE
AMENDED AND RESTATED
VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED
2006 STOCK AND OPTION PLAN**

Effective February 5, 2009, the Amended and Restated Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated 2006 Stock and Option Plan (the "*Plan*") is hereby amended as follows:

Section 6.4 of the Plan is deleted in its entirety and the following is substituted therefor:

6.4 *Limitation on Number of Shares Granted.* Notwithstanding anything in this Plan to the contrary, no Participant shall be granted an aggregate of Options and/or Stock-Based Awards under this Plan in any calendar year for more than an aggregate of 700,000 Shares (subject to adjustment pursuant to Section 17 to the extent consistent with Section 162(m) of the Code).

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**AMENDMENT NO. 2
TO THE
AMENDED AND RESTATED
VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED
2006 STOCK AND OPTION PLAN**

Effective May 14, 2009, the Amended and Restated Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated 2006 Stock and Option Plan (the "*Plan*") is hereby amended as follows:

The first paragraph of Section 3 of the Plan is deleted in its entirety and the following is substituted therefor:

The number of Shares subject to this Plan as to which Stock Rights may be granted from time to time shall be 21,602,380 or the equivalent of such number of Shares after the Administrator, in its sole discretion, has interpreted the effect of any stock split, stock dividend, combination, recapitalization or similar transaction in accordance with Section 17 of this Plan.

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**AMENDMENT NO. 3
TO THE
AMENDED AND RESTATED
VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED
2006 STOCK AND OPTION PLAN**

Effective May 13, 2010, the Amended and Restated Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated 2006 Stock and Option Plan (the "*Plan*") is hereby amended as follows:

The first paragraph of Section 3 of the Plan is deleted in its entirety and the following is substituted therefor:

The number of Shares subject to this Plan as to which Stock Rights may be granted from time to time shall be 33,602,380 or the equivalent of such number of Shares after the Administrator, in its sole discretion, has interpreted the effect of any stock split, stock dividend, combination, recapitalization or similar transaction in accordance with Section 17 of this Plan.

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AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO THE AMENDED AND RESTATED VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED 2006 STOCK AND OPTION PLAN