



## Vertex and CRISPR Therapeutics to Present at the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting and Exposition

December 10, 2022

- Oral presentation of encore clinical data from Phase 3 clinical trials of exa-cel -

- Oral and poster presentations on quality-of-life impacts of sickle cell disease or transfusion-dependent beta-thalassemia and burden of hematopoietic stem cell transplant -

BOSTON and ZUG, Switzerland--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Dec. 10, 2022-- [Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated](#) (Nasdaq: VRTX) and CRISPR Therapeutics (Nasdaq: CRSP) today announced an oral, encore presentation of clinical data from patients with sickle cell disease (SCD) or transfusion-dependent beta-thalassemia (TDT) treated with the investigational therapy exagamglogene autotemcel (exa-cel) in CLIMB-111 or CLIMB-121 and followed in CLIMB-131, a long-term follow-up study. Vertex will also present new health economics and outcomes research from multiple studies in patients with SCD and TDT.

"We are excited to be at ASH and share data from the pivotal exa-cel trials and from multiple real-world studies examining the burden of severe SCD and TDT," said Carmen Bozic, M.D., Executive Vice President, Global Medicines Development and Medical Affairs, and Chief Medical Officer at Vertex. "We remain on track to complete submission of the first ever CRISPR-based therapy in the EU and U.K. this year, and we have initiated our rolling submission in the U.S., which we plan to complete in Q1 2023. We are working with urgency to bring forward this potential therapy to patients who are waiting."

Vertex will have the following presentations at ASH this year.

1. Oral presentation, abstract #12 combined with abstract #2137, in partnership with CRISPR Therapeutics, entitled "Efficacy and Safety of a Single Dose of Exagamglogene Autotemcel for Transfusion-Dependent Beta-Thalassemia and Severe Sickle Cell Disease," will be presented on Saturday, December 10 at 10:45 a.m. CST. The presentation will include encore data as presented at the European Hematology Association Congress in June 2022 on patients with SCD or TDT who received the investigational therapy exa-cel in the CLIMB-111 or CLIMB-121 study and were followed in CLIMB-131, a long-term follow-up study.
2. Oral presentation, abstract #577, entitled "Health-Related Quality of Life, Disease Impacts, and Health Equity Concerns in Adults with Sickle Cell Disease with Recurrent Vaso-Occlusive Crises: Preliminary Results from a Global Longitudinal Survey," will be presented on Sunday, December 11 at 12:00 p.m. CST. The study quantifies the symptoms, quality of life and work impacts of living with SCD with recurrent vaso-occlusive crises (VOCs). This presentation represents preliminary results from an ongoing longitudinal study.
3. Poster presentation, abstract #4820, entitled "Clinical and Economic Outcomes in Patients with Transfusion-Dependent Beta-Thalassemia and Patients with Sickle Cell Disease with Recurrent Vaso-Occlusive Crises Receiving Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplants in the United States," will be presented on Monday, December 12 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. CST. The study analyzes the demographics, transplant-related complications and costs of patients with SCD and TDT who undergo a hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) in the United States utilizing a claims database.
4. Poster presentation, abstract #4882, entitled "Health-Related Quality of Life and Disease Impacts in Adults with Transfusion-Dependent Beta-Thalassemia: Preliminary Results from the Global Longitudinal Survey," will be presented on Monday, December 12 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. CST. The study quantifies the symptoms, quality of life and work impacts of living with TDT. This presentation represents preliminary results from an ongoing longitudinal study.

The accepted abstracts are available online on the [ASH website](#).

### About exagamglogene autotemcel (exa-cel)

Exa-cel, formerly known as CTX001™, is an investigational, autologous, *ex vivo* CRISPR/Cas9 gene-edited therapy that is being evaluated for patients with SCD or TDT, in which a patient's own hematopoietic stem cells are edited to produce high levels of fetal hemoglobin (HbF; hemoglobin F) in red blood cells. HbF is the form of the oxygen-carrying hemoglobin that is naturally present during fetal development, which then switches to the adult form of hemoglobin after birth. The elevation of HbF by exa-cel has the potential to reduce or eliminate painful and debilitating VOCs for patients with SCD and alleviate transfusion requirements for patients with TDT. Earlier results from these ongoing trials were published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in January of 2021 and presented at the European Hematology Association Congress in June 2022.

Based on progress in this program to date, exa-cel has been granted Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy (RMAT), Fast Track, Orphan Drug, and Rare Pediatric Disease designations from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for both SCD and TDT. Exa-cel has also been granted Orphan Drug Designation from the European Commission, as well as Priority Medicines (PRIME) designation from the European Medicines Agency (EMA), for both SCD and TDT.

The companies have begun the rolling Biologics License Application (BLA) submission for exa-cel to the U.S. FDA and plan to complete the BLA by the end of the first quarter 2023 and remain on track to submit exa-cel to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the U.K. and

the EMA in the European Union by the end of the year.

#### **About CLIMB-111 and CLIMB-121**

The ongoing Phase 1/2/3 open-label trials, CLIMB-111 and CLIMB-121, are designed to assess the safety and efficacy of a single dose of exa-cel in patients ages 12 to 35 years with TDT or with SCD, characterized by recurrent VOCs, respectively. The trials are now closed for enrollment. Patients will be followed for approximately two years after exa-cel infusion. Each patient will be asked to participate in CLIMB-131, a long-term follow-up trial.

#### **About CLIMB-131**

The ongoing long-term, open-label trial, CLIMB-131, is designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of exa-cel in patients who received exa-cel in CLIMB-111, CLIMB-121, CLIMB-141, CLIMB-151 or CLIMB-161. The trial is designed to follow participants for up to 15 years after exa-cel infusion.

#### **About CLIMB-141 and CLIMB-151**

The ongoing Phase 3 open-label trials, CLIMB-141 and CLIMB-151, are designed to assess the safety and efficacy of a single dose of exa-cel in patients ages 2 to 11 years with TDT or with SCD, characterized by recurrent VOCs, respectively. The trials are now open for enrollment and currently enrolling patients ages 5 to 11 years and will plan to extend to ages 2 to less than 5 years at a later date. Each trial will enroll approximately 12 patients. Patients will be followed for approximately two years after infusion. Each patient will be asked to participate in CLIMB-131, a long-term follow-up trial.

#### **About CLIMB-161**

The ongoing Phase 3b study, CLIMB-161, is to support expansion of our manufacturing footprint after initial potential approval and launch. This study will enroll approximately 12 patients with either SCD or TDT ages 12 to 35 years. Patients will be followed for approximately one year after infusion. Each patient will be asked to participate in CLIMB-131, a long-term follow-up trial.

#### **About the Gene-Editing Process in These Trials**

Patients who enroll in these trials will have their own hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells collected from peripheral blood. The patient's cells will be edited using the CRISPR/Cas9 technology. The edited cells, exa-cel, will then be infused back into the patient as part of an autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT), a process which involves a patient being treated with myeloablative busulfan conditioning. Patients undergoing HSCT may also encounter side effects (ranging from mild to severe) that are unrelated to the administration of exa-cel. Patients will initially be monitored to determine when the edited cells begin to produce mature blood cells, a process known as engraftment. After engraftment, patients will continue to be monitored to track the impact of exa-cel on multiple measures of disease and for safety.

#### **About the Vertex and CRISPR Collaboration**

Vertex and CRISPR Therapeutics entered into a strategic research collaboration in 2015 focused on the use of CRISPR/Cas9 to discover and develop potential new treatments aimed at the underlying genetic causes of human disease. Exa-cel represents the first potential treatment to emerge from the joint research program. Under an amended collaboration agreement, Vertex now leads global development, manufacturing and commercialization of exa-cel and splits program costs and profits worldwide 60/40 with CRISPR Therapeutics.

#### **About Vertex**

Vertex is a global biotechnology company that invests in scientific innovation to create transformative medicines for people with serious diseases. The company has multiple approved medicines that treat the underlying cause of cystic fibrosis (CF) — a rare, life-threatening genetic disease — and has several ongoing clinical and research programs in CF. Beyond CF, Vertex has a robust clinical pipeline of investigational small molecule, cell and genetic therapies in other serious diseases where it has deep insight into causal human biology, including sickle cell disease, beta thalassemia, APOL1-mediated kidney disease, pain, type 1 diabetes and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency.

Founded in 1989 in Cambridge, Mass., Vertex's global headquarters is now located in Boston's Innovation District and its international headquarters is in London. Additionally, the company has research and development sites and commercial offices in North America, Europe, Australia and Latin America. Vertex is consistently recognized as one of the industry's top places to work, including 13 consecutive years on Science magazine's Top Employers list and one of Fortune's Best Workplaces in Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals and Best Workplaces for Women. For company updates and to learn more about Vertex's history of innovation, visit [www.vrtx.com](http://www.vrtx.com) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Instagram.

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#### **Vertex Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

This press release contains forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended, including, without limitation, statements made by Dr. Carmen Bozic in this press release, our plans and expectations to present new health economics and outcomes research and clinical data from the Phase 3 studies of exa-cel during the 2022 ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition, expectations regarding our global regulatory submissions for exa-cel, the status of our clinical trials of our product candidates under development by us and our collaborators, including activities at the clinical trial sites, the gene-editing process, patient enrollment and expectations regarding clinical trial follow-up. While Vertex believes the forward-looking statements contained in this press release are accurate, these forward-looking statements represent the company's beliefs only as of the date of this press release and there are a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Those risks and uncertainties include, among other things, that data from a limited number of patients may not be indicative of final clinical trial results, that data from the company's development programs, including its programs with its collaborators, may not support registration or further development of its compounds due to safety and/or efficacy, or other reasons, that internal or external factors could delay, divert, or change our plans and objectives with respect to our research and development programs, that future competitive or other market factors may adversely affect the commercial potential for exa-cel, and other risks listed under the heading "Risk Factors" in Vertex's most recent annual report and subsequent quarterly reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and available through the company's website at [www.vrtx.com](http://www.vrtx.com) and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). You should not place undue reliance on these

statements or the scientific data presented. Vertex disclaims any obligation to update the information contained in this press release as new information becomes available.

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### **About CRISPR Therapeutics**

CRISPR Therapeutics is a leading gene editing company focused on developing transformative gene-based medicines for serious diseases using its proprietary CRISPR/Cas9 platform. CRISPR/Cas9 is a revolutionary gene editing technology that allows for precise, directed changes to genomic DNA. CRISPR Therapeutics has established a portfolio of therapeutic programs across a broad range of disease areas including hemoglobinopathies, oncology, regenerative medicine and rare diseases. To accelerate and expand its efforts, CRISPR Therapeutics has established strategic collaborations with leading companies including Bayer, Vertex Pharmaceuticals and ViaCyte, Inc. CRISPR Therapeutics AG is headquartered in Zug, Switzerland, with its wholly-owned U.S. subsidiary, CRISPR Therapeutics, Inc., and R&D operations in Boston, Massachusetts and San Francisco, California, and business offices in London, United Kingdom. For more information, please visit [www.crisprtx.com](http://www.crisprtx.com).

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### **CRISPR Therapeutics Forward-Looking Statement**

*This press release may contain a number of “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended, as well as statements made by Dr. Carmen Bozic in this press release and regarding CRISPR Therapeutics’ expectations about any or all of the following: i) the safety, efficacy and clinical progress of the ongoing exa-cel clinical trials, including expectations regarding its plans to and the clinical data that are being presented during the oral presentation at the 2022 ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition; (ii) anticipated regulatory filings for exa-cel and the timing of such regulatory submissions to the FDA, EMA and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the UK; and (iii) the therapeutic value, development, and commercial potential of CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing technologies and therapies. Without limiting the foregoing, the words “believes,” “anticipates,” “plans,” “expects” and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. You are cautioned that forward-looking statements are inherently uncertain. Although CRISPR Therapeutics believes that such statements are based on reasonable assumptions within the bounds of its knowledge of its business and operations, existing and prospective investors are cautioned that forward-looking statements are inherently uncertain, are neither promises nor guarantees and not to place undue reliance on such statements, which speak only as of the date they are made. Actual performance and results may differ materially from those projected or suggested in the forward-looking statements due to various risks and uncertainties. These risks and uncertainties include, among others: the potential for initial and preliminary data from any clinical trial and initial data from a limited number of patients not to be indicative of final or future trial results; the potential that the exa-cel clinical trial results may not be favorable or may not support registration or further development; that future competitive or other market factors may adversely affect the commercial potential for exa-cel; CRISPR Therapeutics may not realize the potential benefits of its collaboration with Vertex; uncertainties regarding the intellectual property protection for CRISPR Therapeutics’ technology and intellectual property belonging to third parties; and those risks and uncertainties described under the heading “Risk Factors” in CRISPR Therapeutics’ most recent annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly report on Form 10-Q, and in any other subsequent filings made by CRISPR Therapeutics with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, which are available on the SEC’s website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). CRISPR Therapeutics disclaims any obligation or undertaking to update or revise any forward-looking statements contained in this press release, other than to the extent required by law.*

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Source: Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated