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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
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FORM 10-Q

- Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 For the quarterly period ended June 30, 1998  
OR  
 Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 For the transition period from to

Commission File Number 000-19319

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Massachusetts  
-----  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

04-3039129  
-----  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

130 Waverly Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-4242  
-----  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(617) 577-6000  
-----  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

YES  NO

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share	25,313,548
----- Class	----- Outstanding at August 10, 1998

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED

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Report of Independent Accountants

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated:

We have reviewed the condensed consolidated balance sheet of Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated as of June 30, 1998, and the related condensed consolidated statements of operations and cash flows for the three month and six month periods ended June 30, 1998 and 1997. These financial statements are the responsibility of the company's management.

We conducted our review in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures to financial data and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the condensed consolidated financial statements referred to above for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

We have previously audited, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 1997, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for the year then ended (not presented herein); and in our report dated February 23, 1998, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 1997, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated balance sheet from which it has been derived.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Boston, Massachusetts  
July 22, 1998

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In thousands)  
(Unaudited)

	June 30, 1998 ----	December 31, 1997 ----
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 36,274	\$ 71,454
Short-term investments	219,864	208,217
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	1,788	1,952
	-----	-----
Total current assets	257,926	281,623
Restricted cash	2,316	2,316
Property and equipment, net	13,617	11,095
Other assets	1,041	570
	-----	-----
Total assets	\$ 274,900	\$ 295,604
	-----	-----
	-----	-----
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Obligations under capital lease and debt	\$ 2,678	\$ 2,510
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	5,998	10,632
Deferred revenue	---	556
	-----	-----
Total current liabilities	8,676	13,698
	-----	-----
Obligations under capital leases and debt, excluding current portion	6,885	5,905
	-----	-----
Total liabilities	15,561	19,603
	-----	-----
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock	253	252
Additional paid-in capital	393,837	392,372
Accumulated other comprehensive income	240	152
Accumulated deficit	(134,991)	(116,775)
	-----	-----
Total stockholders' equity	259,339	276,001
	-----	-----
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 274,900	\$ 295,604
	-----	-----
	-----	-----

The accompanying notes are an integral part of  
these condensed consolidated financial statements.

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
 (Unaudited)  
 (In thousands, except per share data)

	Three Months Ended June 30,	
	----- 1998 -----	----- 1997 -----
Revenues:		
Collaborative and other research and development	\$ 3,247	\$ 8,320
Investment income	3,905	3,835
	-----	-----
Total revenues	7,152	12,155
	-----	-----
Costs and expenses:		
Research and development	12,631	10,798
General and administrative	4,164	2,624
Interest	159	145
	-----	-----
Total costs and expenses	16,954	13,567
	-----	-----
Net loss	\$ (9,802)	\$ (1,412)
	-----	-----
Basic and diluted net loss per common share	\$ (0.39)	\$ (0.06)
	-----	-----
Basic and diluted weighted average number of common shares outstanding	25,289	24,722
	-----	-----

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
 (Unaudited)  
 (In thousands, except per share amounts)

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	1998	1997
	----	----
Revenues:		
Collaborative and other research and development	\$ 6,420	\$ 12,980
Investment income	7,901	6,093
	-----	-----
Total revenues	14,321	19,073
	-----	-----
Costs and expenses:		
Research and development	24,813	21,112
General and administrative	7,417	4,841
Interest	307	298
	-----	-----
Total costs and expenses	32,537	26,251
	-----	-----
Net loss	\$ (18,216)	\$ (7,178)
	-----	-----
Basic and diluted net loss per common share	\$ (0.72)	\$ (0.31)
	-----	-----
Basic and diluted weighted average number of common shares outstanding	25,270	23,356
	-----	-----

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(Unaudited)  
(In thousands)

	Six months ended June 30,	
	1998	1997
	-----	-----
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net loss	\$ (18,216)	\$ (7,178)
Adjustment to reconcile net loss to net cash used by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	1,975	1,644
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	164	149
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(4,634)	1,251
Deferred revenue	(556)	1,056
	-----	-----
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	(21,267)	(3,078)
	-----	-----
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Short-term investments	(11,559)	(2,116)
Expenditures for property and equipment	(4,497)	(2,988)
Other assets	(471)	(165)
	-----	-----
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	(16,527)	(5,269)
	-----	-----
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from public offering of common stock	----	148,810
Proceeds from private placement of common stock	----	10,000
Other issuances of common stock	1,466	3,542
Proceeds from equipment sale/leaseback	2,511	1,179
Repayment of capital lease obligations	(1,363)	(1,445)
	-----	-----
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	2,614	162,086
	-----	-----
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	--	(6)
	-----	-----
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(35,180)	153,733
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	71,454	34,851
	-----	-----
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 36,274	\$ 188,584
	-----	-----
	-----	-----

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED  
NOTES TO CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements are unaudited and have been prepared by the Company in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in the Company's annual financial statements have been condensed or omitted. The interim financial statements, in the opinion of management, reflect all adjustments (including normal recurring accruals) necessary for a fair statement of the results for the interim periods ended June 30, 1998 and 1997.

The results of operations for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations to be expected for the fiscal year, although the Company expects to incur a substantial loss for the year ended December 31, 1998. These interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 1997, which are contained in the Company's 1997 Annual Report to its shareholders and in its Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

2. Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Company considers all highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at the date of purchase to be cash equivalents. Changes in cash and cash equivalents may be affected by shifts in investment portfolio maturities as well as by actual net cash receipts or disbursements.

3. Basic and Diluted Loss per Common Share

Basic earnings per share is based upon the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share is based upon the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period plus additional weighted average common equivalent shares outstanding during the period when the effect is not anti-dilutive. Common equivalent shares result from the assumed exercise of outstanding stock options, the proceeds of which are then assumed to have been used to repurchase outstanding stock using the treasury stock method. Common equivalent shares have not been included in the per share calculations as the effect would be anti-dilutive. Total potential common equivalent shares consist of 4,760,263 stock options outstanding with a weighted average exercise price of \$22.39 as of June 30, 1998.



VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED  
NOTES TO CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Comprehensive Income

The Company has adopted SFAS No. 130, "Reporting Comprehensive Income", which requires that all components of comprehensive income and total comprehensive income be reported and that changes be shown in a financial statement displayed with the same prominence as other financial statements. The Company has elected to disclose this information in its statement of stockholders' equity. For the six months ended June 30, 1998 and 1997 total comprehensive loss was as follows (in thousands):

	June 30, 1998 -----	June 30, 1997 -----
Net loss	\$ (18,216)	\$ (7,178)
Other comprehensive income (loss):		
Unrealized holding gains (losses) on investments	89	(42)
Foreign currency translation adjustment	--	(6)
	-----	-----
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	89	(48)
	-----	-----
Total comprehensive loss	\$ (18,127)	\$ (7,226)
	-----	-----

5. Subsequent Event

In July 1998 the Company earned a \$2,000,000 milestone payment from Kissei Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. on the selection of VX-745 as a lead drug development candidate in Vertex's p38 MAP kinase research and development program. VX-745, now in preclinical development, has the potential to treat inflammatory diseases and neurological diseases.

6. Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In July 1997, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued SFAS No. 131, "Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information", which is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 1997. The interim reporting disclosures are not required in the first year of adoption. SFAS 131 specifies revised guidelines for determining an entity's operating segments and the type and level of financial information to be disclosed. SFAS 131 changes current practice under SFAS No. 14 by establishing a new framework on which to base segment reporting. The "management" approach expands the required disclosures for each segment. The Company will adopt SFAS 131 in the fourth quarter ended December 31, 1998 and has not yet determined the impact of such adoption on its segment reporting.

In June 1998, the FASB issued SFAS No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities". SFAS 133 is effective for all fiscal quarters of all fiscal years beginning after June 15, 1999. SFAS 133 requires that all derivative instruments be recorded on the balance sheet at their fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are recorded each period in current earnings or other comprehensive income, depending on whether a derivative is designated as part of a hedge transaction and, if it is the type of hedge transaction. The Company is currently assessing the impact of this FASB and does not believe that it will have a material impact on the financial statements.

## 7. Legal Proceedings

Chiron Corporation ("Chiron") announced on July 30, 1998 that it filed suit against the Company and Eli Lilly and Company in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, alleging infringement by the defendants of various U.S. patents issued to Chiron. The infringement action relates to the defendant's research and development activities in the hepatitis C viral protease field and the alleged use of inventions claimed by Chiron in connection with that research and development. Chiron has requested damages in an unspecified amount, as well as an order permanently enjoining the defendants from unlicensed use of Chiron inventions. The Company intends to vigorously contest the action based upon its knowledge of the matter to date.

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

This discussion contains forward-looking statements which are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that can cause actual results to differ materially from those described. Factors that may cause such differences include but are not limited to those described in the section of the Company's annual report on Form 10-K entitled "Risk Factors." Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements which speak only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof.

Since its inception in 1989, the Company has been engaged in the discovery, development and commercialization of novel, small molecule pharmaceuticals for the treatment of major diseases for which there are currently limited or no effective treatments. The Company is a leader in the use of structure-based drug design, an approach to drug discovery that integrates advanced biology, biophysics and chemistry. The company is conducting research and development programs to develop pharmaceuticals for the treatment of viral diseases, multidrug resistance in cancer, autoimmune and inflammatory diseases and neurodegenerative disorders.

To date, the Company has not received any revenues from the sale of pharmaceutical products. The Company's lead product candidate, amprenavir for the treatment of HIV infection, is presently undergoing Phase III clinical trials. If such clinical trials are concluded successfully and a New Drug Application is approved by the FDA and product sales, if any, commence, the Company will receive a royalty on sales of amprenavir by its partner Glaxo Wellcome plc ("Glaxo Wellcome"). However, there can be no assurance that Phase III clinical trials will be completed in a timely fashion, if at all, that such trials will be successful, or that any approval will be granted by the FDA. The Company has incurred operating losses since its inception and expects to incur a loss in 1998. The Company believes that operating losses may continue for the next several years even if significant royalties are realized on amprenavir sales because the Company is planning to make significant investments in research and development for its other potential products. The Company expects that losses will fluctuate from quarter to quarter and that such fluctuations may be substantial.

#### Results of Operations

Three Months Ended June 30, 1998 Compared with Three Months Ended June 30, 1997.

The Company's total revenues decreased to \$7,152,000 in the second quarter of 1998 from \$12,155,000 in the second quarter of 1997. In the second quarter of 1998, revenues consisted of \$3,002,000 under the Company's collaborative agreements, \$3,905,000 in investment income and \$245,000 in government grants and other income. In the second quarter of 1997, the Company received \$7,822,000 in revenue from its collaborative agreements, \$3,835,000 in investment income and \$498,000 from government grants and other revenue. The lower collaborative revenue during the second quarter of 1998 as compared to the second quarter of 1997 was principally due to a \$2,000,000 payment in the second quarter of 1997 from Kissei Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. ("Kissei") associated with a clinical trial of amprenavir, Vertex's HIV protease inhibitor, and a \$3,000,000 payment from Eli Lilly and Company ("Lilly") in conjunction with the signing of a collaborative agreement on the Company's hepatitis C program.

The Company's total costs and expenses increased to \$16,954,000 in the second quarter of 1998 from \$13,567,000 in the second quarter of 1997. Research and development expenses increased to \$12,631,000 in the second quarter of 1998 from \$10,798,000 in the second quarter of 1997 principally due to the continued expansion of the Company's research and development organization. In addition, general and administrative expenses increased to \$4,164,000 in the second quarter of 1998 from \$2,624,000 in the second quarter of 1997. The increase in general and administrative expenses principally

reflects the impact of personnel additions and an increase in marketing activities particularly associated with the anticipated launch of amprenavir. Interest expense increased to \$159,000 in the second quarter of 1998 from \$145,000 in the second quarter of 1997 due to higher levels of equipment lease financing during the year. The Company expects that research and development as well as general and administrative expenses will continue to increase as the Company starts new research projects, advances current clinical and preclinical candidates, and expands its marketing and business development activities.

The Company recorded a net loss of \$9,802,000 or \$0.39 per share in the second quarter of 1998 compared to a net loss of \$1,412,000 or \$0.06 per share in the second quarter of 1997.

Six Months Ended June 30, 1998 Compared with Six Months Ended June 30, 1997.

The Company's total revenues decreased to \$14,321,000 for the six months ended June 30, 1998 from \$19,073,000 for the six months ended June 30, 1997. In 1998, the Company's revenues consisted of \$5,961,000 in collaborative revenues, \$7,901,000 in investment income, and \$459,000 in government grants and other income. In 1997, the Company's revenues consisted of \$12,059,000 earned under the Company's collaborative agreements, \$6,093,000 in investment income and \$921,000 in government grants and other income. The decrease in collaborative revenue for the first half of 1998 compared to the same period in 1997 was principally due to the Company's receipt in 1997 of \$4,000,000 in development reimbursements from Kissei for an ongoing clinical trial of the Company's HIV protease inhibitor in addition to an upfront payment of \$3,000,000 by Lilly in conjunction with the signing of a collaborative agreement for the Company's Hepatitis C program.

The Company's total costs increased to \$32,537,000 for the six months ended June 30, 1998 from \$26,251,000 for the six months ended June 30, 1997. Research and development expenses increased to \$24,813,000 in the first half of 1998 from \$21,112,000 in the first half of 1997, primarily due to the scientific headcount growth in the Company's research and development organization as well as growth in development related expenditures for the Company's subsidiary Altus Biologics Inc. General and administrative expenses increased during the first half of 1998 to \$7,417,000 from \$4,841,000 in the first half of 1997 due primarily to increases in personnel and professional expenses, particularly associated with the expected market launch of amprenavir and corporate advertising activities. Interest expense was \$307,000 in the first half of 1998, an increase from \$298,000 in the first half of 1997 as a result of higher levels of equipment financing during the period.

For the reasons stated above, the Company incurred a net loss of \$18,216,000 or \$0.72 per share in the six months ended June 30, 1998 compared to a net loss of \$7,178,000 or \$0.31 per share in the six months ended June 30, 1997.

#### Liquidity and Capital Resources

The Company's operations have been funded principally through strategic collaborative agreements, public offerings and private placements of the Company's equity securities, equipment lease financing, government grants and investment income. The Company expects to incur increased research and development and related supporting expenses and, consequently, may continue to experience losses on a quarterly and annual basis as it continues to develop existing and future compounds and to conduct clinical trials of potential drugs. The Company also expects to incur substantial administrative and commercialization expenditures in the future and additional expenses related to the filing, prosecution, defense and enforcement of patent and other intellectual property rights.

The Company expects to finance these substantial cash needs with its existing cash and investments of approximately \$256,138,000 at June 30, 1998, together with investment income earned thereon, future payments under its existing collaborative agreements, and facilities and equipment financing. To the extent that funds from these sources are not sufficient to fund the Company's activities, it will be necessary to raise additional funds through public offerings or private placements of securities or other methods of financing. There can be no assurance that such financing will be available on acceptable

terms, if at all. The Company believes that its existing cash and investments should be sufficient to meet its anticipated requirements for at least the next two years.

The Company's aggregate cash and investments decreased by \$23,533,000 during the six months ended June 30, 1998 to \$256,138,000. Cash used by operations, principally to fund research and development activities, was \$21,267,000 during the same period. In addition to the net loss of approximately \$18,216,000, cash was used by operations to significantly decrease accounts payable and accrued expenses in the amount of \$4,634,000 which was related to development expenses incurred in 1997 for the Company's cancer multidrug resistance, autoimmune disease and inflammation projects. The Company also expended \$4,497,000 during this period to acquire property and equipment, principally for research equipment and facilities. During the first half of 1998, the Company entered into equipment lease financing in the aggregate amount of \$2,511,000 and repaid \$1,363,000 of its lease obligations.

The Company has plans to expand its business development operation in the U.K. to include a research and development site. The Company expects that the expansion of the U.K. operations to include research and development staff and facilities will have a significant impact on expenditures going forward. The Company expects that in general, research and development as well as general and administrative expenses will continue to increase as the Company starts new research projects, advances current clinical and preclinical candidates, and expands its marketing and business development activities.

The Company adopted requirements relating to comprehensive income in accordance with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 130 ("SFAS 130"), "Reporting Comprehensive Income". This Statement requires that total comprehensive income be reported and that changes be shown in a financial statement displayed with the same prominence as other financial statements.

In July 1997, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued SFAS No. 131, "Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information", which is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 1997. The interim reporting disclosures are not required in the first year of adoption. SFAS 131 specifies revised guidelines for determining an entity's operating segments and the type and level of financial information to be disclosed. SFAS 131 changes current practice under SFAS No. 14 by establishing a new framework on which to base segment reporting. The "management" approach expands the required disclosures for each segment. The Company will adopt SFAS 131 in the fourth quarter ended December 31, 1998 and has not yet determined the impact of such adoption on its segment reporting.

In June 1998, the FASB issued SFAS No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities". SFAS 133 is effective for all fiscal quarters of all fiscal years beginning after June 15, 1999. SFAS 133 requires that all derivative instruments be recorded on the balance sheet at their fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are recorded each period in current earnings or other comprehensive income, depending on whether a derivative is designated as part of a hedge transaction and, if it is the type of hedge transaction. The Company is currently assessing the impact of this FASB and does not believe that it will have a material impact on the financial statements.

The Company is currently assessing the potential impact of the year 2000 on the processing of date-sensitive information by the Company's computerized information systems and products purchased by the Company. The Company believes that its internal information systems are either year 2000 compliant or will be so prior to the year 2000 without incurring material costs. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company will not experience unexpected costs and delays in achieving year 2000 compliance for its internal information systems and current products, which could result in a material adverse effect on the Company's future results of operations.

PART II.

OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings:

Chiron Corporation ("Chiron") announced on July 30, 1998 that it filed suit against Vertex and Eli Lilly and Company in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, alleging infringement by the defendants of various U.S. patents issued to Chiron. The infringement action relates to the defendant's research and development activities in the hepatitis C viral protease field and the alleged use of inventions claimed by Chiron in connection with that research and development. Chiron has requested damages in an unspecified amount, as well as an order permanently enjoining the defendants from unlicensed use of Chiron inventions. The Company intends to vigorously contest the action based upon its knowledge of the matter to date.

Item 2. Changes in Securities:

None

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities:

None

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders:

The Company's Annual Meeting of Stockholders was held on May 27, 1998. The stockholders elected Joshua S. Boger, Charles A. Sanders and Elaine S. Ullian to the class of directors whose term expires in 2001. The tabulation of votes with respect to the election of such directors is as follows:

	Total Vote For: -----	Total Vote Withheld: -----
Joshua S. Boger	19,201,672	70,034
Charles A. Sanders	19,206,558	65,148
Elaine S. Ullian	19,200,422	71,284

The stockholders approved an amendment to the Company's 1996 Stock and Option Plan, authorizing the addition of 1,250,000 shares to that Plan, with 13,038,706 shares voted in favor, 6,082,295 shares voted against, 96,424 shares abstaining, and 54,281 broker non-votes.

In addition, the stockholders approved the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent accountants for the 1998 fiscal year by a vote of 19,237,785 shares in favor, 26,475 shares against, and 7,446 shares abstaining.

Item 5. Other Information:

None

Item 6. Exhibits:

27 Financial Data Schedule. (Exhibit 27 is submitted as an exhibit only in the electronic format of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission.)

99 Letter of Independent Accountants

Reports on Form 8-K:  
None

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED

Date: August 14, 1998

/s/ Thomas G. Auchincloss  
-----  
Thomas G. Auchincloss, Jr.  
Vice President of Finance and Treasurer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: August 14, 1998

/s/ Hans D. van Houte  
-----  
Hans D. van Houte  
Controller  
(Principal Accounting Officer)



THIS SCHEDULE CONTAINS SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM THE COMPANY'S QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1998 AND IS QUALIFIED IN ITS ENTIRETY BY REFERENCE TO SUCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

1,000  
U.S. DOLLAR

6-MOS	DEC-31-1998	JAN-01-1998	JUN-30-1998
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	219,864		
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	0		
	257,926		
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274,900	259,086		
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(18,216)			
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	(18,216)		
	(0.72)		
	(0.72)		



Securities and Exchange Commission  
450 Fifth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20549

Re: Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated  
Registration on Form S-8

We are aware that our report dated July 22, 1998 on our review of interim financial information of Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated for the three month and six month periods ended June 30, 1998 and included in the Company's quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter then ended is incorporated by reference in the Company's registration statements on Form S-8 (File Nos. 33-48030, 33-48348, 33-65742, 33-93224, 33-12325, 333-27011 and 333-56179). Pursuant to Rule 436(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, this report should not be considered a part of the registration statement prepared or certified by us within the meaning of Sections 7 and 11 of that Act.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Boston MA  
August 13, 1998