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**Data Safety Monitoring Board Unanimously Recommends Continuation of VIRxSYS's Phase 1  
Clinical Trial to Treat HIV-infected Patients**

Gaithersburg, MD – September 4, 2003 – VIRxSYS Corporation, a private biotechnology company focused on the development of genetic medicines for the treatment of serious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, announced today that an independent Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) has reviewed initial safety data for its first patient in its Phase 1 trial involving HIV-positive patients receiving autologous VRX496 modified T cells, and unanimously recommended that the trial continue without any modifications. The DSMB is comprised of an independent group of physicians who are experts in HIV/AIDS and whose role is to ensure patient safety during each phase of the trial. The trial is being led by University of Pennsylvania's Drs. Rob Roy MacGregor, principal investigator, and Carl H. June, co-investigator, both leaders in the fields of infectious diseases and T cell transplantation.

The clinical trial is the first-ever to use a promising new class of genetic vectors - lentiviral vectors - in humans. Lentiviral vectors have been shown to deliver genetic payloads stably into primary human cells with high efficiency, a necessary prerequisite for effective genetic therapy. The ongoing trial involves the use of a HIV-based lentiviral vector where a muted or "guttled" form of the virus is genetically engineered to inhibit HIV replication and spread. T cells from HIV-infected patients are removed and treated with the HIV lentiviral vector and then are reintroduced back into the patient. The goal for this new potential therapy for HIV/AIDS is to place the disease into permanent remission by creating an "army" of VRX496-containing CD4 T cells in the patient's body that permanently suppresses HIV infection and reconstitutes the immune system to prevent the onset of symptomatic AIDS.

Boro Dropulic, Ph.D., Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, stated, “We can be quite satisfied with these initial safety results since this first patient had a high viral load and a relatively low CD4 count. The fact that the patient experienced no adverse events related to our product in spite of such unfavorable clinical parameters is rather promising. We will continue to monitor the patient to ensure the safety of VRX496.”

The trial plans to enroll a total of five patients who are infected with HIV and who have failed two-regimens of triple anti-retroviral drug therapy (HAART). Each patient will be enrolled after preceding patients show initial safety, as determined by the DSMB. The Phase 1 trial is complete after sufficient safety data is accumulated on all 5 patients. Dr Dropulic continues, “Demonstration of safety in the five HIV-infected patients will create the safety data needed to proceed to phase II safety and efficacy trials. Such safety data will also be important for the potential use of HIV-based lentiviral vectors for diseases other than HIV.”

### **About VIRxSYS**

VIRxSYS Corporation is a private biotechnology company founded in 1998, which focuses on the development of a novel HIV lentiviral vector platform technology for the treatment of serious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and cancer. The Company’s highly patented, proprietary technology platform and product application strategy is based on research originally conducted at and exclusively licensed from The Johns Hopkins University (JHU) in Baltimore, Maryland by VIRxSYS’ Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Dr. Boro Dropulic. Signature Capital, the Company’s lead investor, is a unique venture capital company co-founded by Bill Sick and Bill Turner that specializes in identifying companies with innovative approaches. Additional information is available at VIRxSYS’ Web site at <http://www.virxsys.com>, and at Signature Capital’s Web site at <http://www.sigcap.com>.