

has a pipeline of investigational small molecule drugs for other illnesses, beyond CF, such as pain and kidney disease, and has programs for cell and genetic therapies. Approved CF drugs incl.:

(4/23 proxy). Chrmn.: Dr. Jeffrey M. Leiden. Pres. & CEO: Dr. Reshma Kewalramani. Inc.: MA. Addr.: 50 Northern Ave., Boston, MA 02210. Tel.: 617-341-6100. Internet: www.vrtx.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '20-'22 of change (per sh) to '26-'28 Revenues "Cash Flow" 18.5% 31.0% 11.5% 12.0% Earnings 12.0% Nil 20.5% Dividends Book Value 26.0% 46.0%

Current Liab.

1947<u>.0</u>

2142.0

2438.2

2742.1

2989.1

3352.1

Cal- endar	QUAF Mar.31	RTERLY RE Jun.30		(\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
	2097.5	1524.5 1793.4 2196.2 2493.2	2334.3	2072.6 2302.7	6205.7 7574.4 8930.7 9800
2024	2550		2600	2650	10400
Cal- endar	E/ Mar.31	ARNINGS F Jun.30	ER SHAR Sep.30	E A Dec.31	Full Year
2020 2021 2022 2023 2024	2.29 2.49 2.96 2.69 3.50	3.13	2.53 3.28 3.59 3.60 3.80	3.15	10.29 9.01 12.82 13.20 14.50
Cal- endar	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31				Full Year
2019 2020 2021 2022 2023	NO CASH DIVIDENDS BEING PAID				

Vertex **Pharmaceuticals** headed for another record-setting year. June-quarter revenue was up 14\(\varphi\), year over year, thanks to the continued strong market rollout of Trikafta (Kaftrio in the EU), a triple-drug blend of elexacaftor, tezacaftor, and ivacaftor approved for treating cystic fibrosis (CF), a debilitating lung disease. Given its strong sales momentum, additional reimbursements obtained in markets outside the U.S., and label expansions on key CF therapies, revenues in 2023 now look to be on track to rise to \$9.7 billion-\$9.8 billion, from the previous forecast of \$9.55 billion-\$9.7 billion. Despite high R&D/commercialization costs, earnings per share may top \$13.00.

Investors are likely eagerly awaiting some important developments, includ-

ing the potential launch of a biologic **product.** Recall that Vertex, together with CRISPR Therapeutics, is developing a gene-editing therapy called exa-cel, targeting beta thalassemia and severe sickle cell disease. The U.S. FDA has accepted the biologics licensing applications, and the drug is currently under review for fast-track approval, with targeted action

dates of December 8th (for sickle cell disease) and March 30, 2024 (for beta thalassemia). The drug is also under regulatory review in the EU and U.K.

Meanwhile, expansion efforts continue within the core CF franchise and **beyond it.** As part of its strategy to treat the underlying disease across a broader, younger patient population, Vertex remains focused on expanding the label on its CF drugs and launching new ones. To this end, Vertex has already gotten the green light on Trikafta/Kaftrio, Kalydeco, and Orkambi for children, ages ranging from 1-4 months old to 2-5 years. It is also exploring a triple drug combination with tezacaftor. Elsewhere, mid- and late-stage studies are ongoing for such conditions/illnesses as acute pain (VX-548 is undergoing Phase III trials), Type 1 diabetes, kidney disease, protein deficiencies, and muscular dystrophy.

Vertex Good-quality shares have reached yet a new peak. While a number of key growth opportunities augur well for the long haul, the stock's 3- to 5-year gains potential is limited at this price. J. Susan Ferrara September 1, 2023

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. non-recur. gain: '18, \$6.03 (one-time tax benefit). Qtly. eqs. may not sum due to difference in shs. outst'g/rounding. Next egs. rpt. due late October.

(B) In millions. Note: share count in '13 reflects (C) As of 12/31/22, had total net oper. loss the conversion of convertible notes into 8.3 carryforwards of about \$770.5 mill. and tax credits of \$295.0 million.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A+ 85 Price Growth Persistence 80 **Earnings Predictability** 30