

illnesses, beyond CF, such as pain and kidney disease, and has programs for cell and genetic therapies. Approved CF drugs incl.:

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the EU and the U.K., while in the U.S.,

Vertex is on track to complete its filing for

Efforts to bolster the core CF fran-

chise continue. Indeed, label expansions,

reimbursement in new markets, and new

drugs are part of Vertex's strategy to treat

the underlying disease across a broader, younger patient group. The company cur-

rently awaits the regulatory blessing on

a biologics license by the end of March.

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '20-'22 of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" 31.0% 18.5% 12.0% 13.5% Earnings 13.5% Nil 22.0% Dividends Book Value 26.0% 46.0%

1722.4

1877.5

Current Liab.

1947.0

2142.0

2438.2

2742.1

Cal- endar	QUAF Mar.31	RTERLY RE Jun.30		(\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2020	1515.1	1524.5	1538.3	1627.8	6205.7
2021	1724.3	1793.4	1984.1	2072.6	7574.4
2022	2097.5	2196.2	2334.3	2302.7	8930.7
2023	2350	2350	2450	2500	9650
2024	2500	2550	2600	2650	10300
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2020	2.29	3.18	2.53	2.30	10.29
2021	2.49	.26	3.28	3.00	9.01
2022	2.96	3.13	3.59	3.15	12.82
2023	3.20	3.40	3.60	3.30	13.50
2024	3.50	3.70	3.80	3.50	14.50
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2019					
2020	NO CASH DIVIDENDS				
2021	BEING PAID				
2022					
2023					

We think another record showing is on tap at Vertex Pharmaceuticals in 2023, after last year's outstanding performance. To wit, revenues and earnings surged to their highest levels in 2022, driven by continued rapid sales uptake 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, in patients ages 12 and up. And results stand to climb further this year. Vertex expects revenues of \$9.55 billion-\$9.7 billion in 2023, as label expansions of the key CF therapy (targeting patients ages 6 and up, and pending approval for kids 2-5 years old) gains traction outside the U.S. Despite currency headwinds, clinical development and commercialization investments, and \$300 million in milestone payments to be made, profits may well set another record. A new drug could soon be launched. Recall that Vertex, together with CRISPR Therapeutics, recently developed a gene-editing therapy called exa-cel (formerly

CTX001) for beta-thalassemia and severe sickle cell disease. The drug has been

moving through the regulatory process in

Trikafta/Kaftrio for kids ages 2-5, in the U.S., EU, and the U.K., and on Kalydeco in some global markets for infants of 1-4 months. Vertex is working with Moderna to explore mRNA therapies for CF, too. Other R&D programs beyond CF are making headway, too. Besides beta thalassemia and sickle cell diseases, midand late-stage studies are ongoing, addressing such illnesses/conditions as Type 1 diabetes, kidney disease, pain, protein deficiencies, and muscular dystrophy. Good-quality Vertex stock is timely.

But, while an expanding CF lineup and other pipeline opportunities should boost profits out to 2026-2028, the issue's appreciation potential is unexciting at this price. J. Susan Ferrara March 3, 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 early May.

(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+ 80 Price Growth Persistence 80 **Earnings Predictability** 30