

VASTox plc
(“VASTox” or “the Company”)

**VASTox PRESENTS PROGRESS ON ITS DUCHENNE MUSCULAR
DYSTROPHY PROGRAMME**

Oxford, UK, 8 April 2005 – VASTox plc (AIM: VOX), the Oxford-based drug discovery and services business focused on chemical genomics, is pleased to announce that Professor Kay Davies FRS, CBE, scientific founder of VASTox plc and Head of Human Anatomy and Genetics at University of Oxford, was invited by Isis Innovation, a subsidiary of the University of Oxford, to present a scientific breakthrough in new research, in the field of muscular dystrophy, to the Oxford Innovation Society. Professor Davies gave a key note presentation entitled ‘The Challenges of Therapies for Muscular Dystrophy’ last night and the event was well attended by opinion-leaders from major pharmaceutical companies.

Muscular dystrophies are genetic disorders causing lower than normal levels of the protein dystrophin in the body. Professor Davies discovered a closely related protein called utrophin that now forms a promising target for treating the disease.

In the presentation Professor Davies commented that most current funding for muscular dystrophy research is focused on approaches such as gene therapy. Professor Davies highlighted the approach taken by VASTox and her academic department at Oxford University in using ‘small molecules’ which offer several advantages and have more in common with drugs on the market today.

In the new research that Professor Davies reported yesterday she said that the discovery of several novel structural chemical classes had upregulated utrophin to therapeutically significant levels. These new VASTox molecules have drug-like properties and represent a wider field of candidates for potential drugs.

Dr Steven Lee, CEO of VASTox, commented:

“This exciting research offers a scientific breakthrough and, together with recent key appointments to our Scientific Advisory Board and research teams, underpins VASTox’s strength in the discovery of a new treatment for muscular dystrophy.”

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For more information please contact:

VASTox

Steven Lee, PhD, Chief Executive Officer

Tel: 07766 913898

Buchanan Communications

Tim Anderson, mark Court, Mary-Jane Johnson

Tel: +44 (0)207 466 5000

About VASTox plc

VASTox is a chemical genomics technology company that both provides services to the pharmaceutical industry, and discovers and develops proprietary novel drugs. The company's technology platform aims to use high volume, high content screening using zebrafish and fruitflies to provide a high level of predictability of the efficacy and toxicity of potential drug compounds in humans which has the potential to dramatically decrease the time and cost of drug discovery and development. VASTox was formed in January 2003, from the University of Oxford, by some of the UK's foremost scientists who have taken a highly creative approach to the problems involved in drug discovery and who have a proven record in delivering technological excellence. The company listed on the London Stock Exchange AIM in October 2004.