



For Immediate Release

**Virica Biotech Announces R&D Partnership with Oxford Biomedica**  
to Improve the Manufacturing of Lentiviral Vector Gene Therapies Using Viral Sensitizers

**Ottawa, Canada – January 24, 2022** – [Virica Biotech Inc.](#), a leading developer of solutions for scaling of viral medicines, today announced it will collaborate with [Oxford Biomedica plc](#) (LSE: OXB), a leading gene and cell therapy company, to improve the yield and production efficiency of Oxford Biomedica's next generation lentiviral vector gene therapies using Virica's Viral Sensitizers (VSEs™).



Ella Korets-Smith, Chief Business Officer of Virica Biotech, said: "There is growing demand from major industry players to use leading lentivirus technologies, like Oxford Biomedica's LentiVector® platform, to develop cell and gene therapies. We envision our VSEs™ as an ideal solution in their quest to pursue new ways to increase commercial yields in order to support the use of life-saving cell and gene therapies globally."

Oxford Biomedica is a world-leading pioneer of cell and gene therapies. Its LentiVector® platform enables the successful development of breakthrough gene and cell-based medicines, and through collaborations with pharmaceutical partners, has delivered the first FDA and EMA approved CAR-T cell therapy.

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**About Oxford Biomedica**

Oxford Biomedica (LSE:OXB) is a leading, fully integrated, gene and cell therapy group focused on developing life changing treatments for serious diseases. Oxford Biomedica and its subsidiaries (the "Group") have built a sector leading lentiviral vector delivery platform (LentiVector®), which the Group leverages to develop in vivo and ex vivo products both in-house and with partners. The Group has created a valuable proprietary portfolio of gene and cell therapy product candidates in the areas of oncology, CNS disorders and liver diseases. The Group has also entered into a number of partnerships, including with Novartis, Bristol Myers Squibb, Sio Gene Therapies, Orchard Therapeutics, Santen, Beam Therapeutics, Boehringer Ingelheim, Arcellx and Cabaletta Bio through which it has long-term economic interests in other potential gene and cell therapy products. Additionally, the Group has signed a 3-year master supply and development agreement with AstraZeneca for large-scale manufacturing of the adenoviral based COVID-19 vaccine, AZD1222. Oxford Biomedica is based across several locations in Oxfordshire, UK and employs more than 740 people. Further information is available at [www.oxb.com](http://www.oxb.com).

**About Virica Biotech**

Virica optimizes the manufacturing of viral medicines which allows developers to economically deploy their products at scale. Virica's Viral Sensitizer (VSE™) platform reduces production inefficiencies caused by innate anti-viral defenses in manufacturing cells. Customizable VSE cocktails substantially increase manufacturing yields and reduce the cost of goods for a range of products, including vaccines, cell and gene therapies, and anti-cancer therapies. Visit [viricabiotech.com](http://viricabiotech.com) for more information.

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*This news release contains "forward-looking statements," which reflect the current expectations of the Company's management for future growth, results of operations, performance and business prospects. Forward-looking statements involve significant known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions.*