



# The Billion Dollar Molecule: One Company's Quest for the Perfect Drug

By Barry Werth

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Join journalist Barry Werth as he pulls back the curtain on Vertex, a start-up pharmaceutical company, and witness firsthand the intense drama being played out in the pioneering and hugely profitable field of drug research. Founded by Joshua Boger, a dynamic Harvard- and Merck-trained scientific whiz kid, Vertex is dedicated to designing -- atom by atom -- both a new life-saving immunosuppressant drug, and a drug to combat the virus that causes AIDS. You will be hooked from start to finish, as you go from the labs, where obsessive, fiercely competitive scientists struggle for a breakthrough, to Wall Street, where the wheeling and dealing takes on a life of its own, as Boger courts investors and finally decides to take Vertex public. Here is a fascinating no-holds-barred account of the business of science, which includes an updated epilogue about the most recent developments in the quest for a drug to cure AIDS.

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### **Bibliography**

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Amazon.com Review**

From test tubes to the Wall Street IPO and beyond, this is the riveting true story of a start-up pharmaceutical company working to create an anti-AIDS drug. Scientifically accurate, yet written with an attention to plot, timing, dialogue, and development of character more characteristic of the best thrillers.

#### **From Publishers Weekly**

A startup pharmaceutical company is the focus of this intriguing look at the nexus of biotechnology and high finance; features a new epilogue by the author.

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#### **From Library Journal**

Werth, a freelance writer on science and business issues, chronicles Joshua Boger's start-up of Vertex, a biotechnology company dedicated to the discovery of new drugs. Boger, a successful organic chemist with Merck, left his position as a senior director to establish Vertex. He recruited an exceptional group of researchers with the aim of integrating the most advanced disciplines in molecular biology to develop an immune-suppressing drug used in organ transplants and a potent HIV protease inhibitor to help thwart AIDS. Werth also discusses Vertex's financing and initial public stock offering. Recommended for science and business collections in public libraries and for special libraries in the pharmaceutical industry.

- *Bruce Slutsky, New Jersey Inst. of Tech. Lib., Newark*

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