

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INC / MA  
 Form 424B3  
 July 16, 2002

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) (3)  
 Registration No. 333-37794

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT NO. 4 DATED JULY 16, 2002 TO THE  
 PROSPECTUS DATED MARCH 9, 2001 OF  
 VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED

This Prospectus Supplement No. 4 amends the information in the table under the caption "Selling Holders" in the Prospectus dated March 9, 2001, as previously amended, by deleting the information contained in the table regarding the Selling Security Holders with respect to the principal amount of notes and common stock of Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated and substituting therefor the following table:

| NAME OF SECURITY HOLDER                                  | PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF<br>NOTES BENEFICIALLY<br>OWNED AND OFFERED (1) | NUMBER OF S<br>ISSUABLE UP<br>NOTE |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
|  | -----  | -----                              |
| AAM/Zazone Institutional Income Fund L.P.                | \$ 850,000   |                                    |
| AFTRA Health Fund  | \$ 300,000   |                                    |
| AIG/National Union Fire Insurance                        | \$ 975,000   |                                    |
| Alexandra Global Investment Fund 1 Ltd.                  | \$ 3,000,000   |                                    |
| AllState Insurance Company                               | \$ 2,000,000   |                                    |
| Alpine Associates  | \$ 4,600,000   |                                    |
| Alpine Partners, L.P.                                    | \$ 700,000   |                                    |
| American Motorist Insurance Company                      | \$ 763,000   |                                    |
| Arapahoe County Colorado                                 | \$ 75,000  |                                    |
| Arkansas Teachers Retirement                             | \$ 5,850,000   |                                    |
| Argent Classic Arbitrage fund (Bermuda) L.P.             | \$ 4,400,000   |                                    |
| Argent Classic Convertible Arbitrage Fund (Bermuda) L.P. | \$ 5,400,000   |                                    |
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| Argent Classic Convertible Arbitrage Fund L.P.           | \$ 1,600,000   |                                    |
| Associated Electric & Gas Insurance Services Limited     | \$ 400,000   |                                    |

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|---|----------------|
| Attorney's Title Insurance Fund, Inc.   | \$ 500,000     |
| Bank Austria Cayman Island, L   | \$ 6,000,000   |
| Baptist Health Southern Florida   | \$ 367,000     |
| Bear Stearns  | \$ 5,000,000   |
| BNP Cooper Neff Convertible Strategies Fund, L.P.                             | \$ 188,000     |
| BNY Hamilton Equity Income Fund   | \$ 184,520,000 |
| Boilermakers Blacksmith Pension Trust   | \$ 1,650,000   |
| Boston Museum of Fine Arts  | \$ 151,000     |
| Boulder II Limited  | \$ 2,850,000   |
| BP Amoco PLC Master Trust   | \$ 1,758,000   |
| BTES - Convertible ARB  | \$ 46,130,000  |
| BTPO Growth vs. Value   | \$ 184,520,000 |
| California Public Employees Retirement System Nominee<br>Name Surfboard & Co. | \$ 3,000,000   |
| CALAMOS Market Neutral Fund-CALAMOS Investment Trust                          | \$ 1,670,000   |
| Canyon Capital Arbitrage Master Hedge Fund LTD.                               | \$ 50,743,000  |
| Canyon Value Realization (Cayman) Ltd.  | \$ 11,000,000  |
| CFFX, LLC   | \$ 2,000,000   |
| CIBC World Markets  | \$ 6,000,000   |
| City of New Orleans   | \$ 315,000     |
| City University of New York   | \$ 185,000     |

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|---|--------------|
| Clinton Riverside Convertible Portfolio Limited     | \$ 4,500,000 |
| Conseco Fund Group - Convertible Securities Fund    | \$ 3,250,000 |
| Conseco Health Insurance Company - Convertible      | \$ 1,500,000 |
| Conseco Senior Health Insurance Company Convertible | \$ 1,500,000 |
| Conseco Variable Insurance Company - Convertible    | \$ 750,000   |
| Consulting Group Capital Markets Funds              | \$ 450,000   |
| Cova Bond Debenture Fund                            | \$ 500,000   |
| Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation              | \$ 5,000,000 |

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| CSFB Convertible & Quantitative Strategies   | \$ 1,000,000 |
| D.E. Shaw Investments, L.P.                  | \$ 1,500,000 |
| D.E. Shaw Valence, L.P.                      | \$ 5,500,000 |
| Deephaven Domestic Convertible Trading Co.   | \$ 1,000,000 |
| Delphi Financial Group, Inc.                 | \$ 500,000   |
| Delaware PERS                                | \$ 1,840,000 |
| Deutsche Bank Securities                     | \$ 7,521,000 |
| Elf Aquitaine                                | \$ 200,000   |
| Engineers Joint Pension Fund                 | \$ 621,000   |
| Employee Benefit Convertible Securities Fund | \$ 200,000   |
| Enterprise Convertible Securities Fund       | \$ 108,000   |
| Franklin and Marshall College                | \$ 245,000   |
| First Republic Bank                          | \$ 225,000   |
| Fuji U. S. Income Open                       | \$ 500,000   |
| Gaia Offshore Master Fund Ltd.               | \$ 2,500,000 |

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| Goldman Sachs and Company              | \$ 3,251      |
| Grady Hospital Foundation              | \$ 161,000    |
| Granville Capital Corporation          | \$ 6,000,000  |
| Hamilton Partners Limited              | \$ 4,000,000  |
| HFR Master Fund, Ltd.                  | \$ 100,000    |
| Highbridge International LLC           | \$ 18,000,000 |
| Hotel Union & Hotel Industry of Hawaii | \$ 980,000    |
| ICI American Holdings Trust            | \$ 980,000    |
| Independence Blue Cross                | \$ 138,000    |
| Island Holdings                        | \$ 60,000     |
| ITG, Inc.                              | \$ 203,000    |
| James Cambell Corporation              | \$ 386,000    |
| JAS Securities                         | \$ 2,250,000  |
| J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc.           | \$ 10,950,000 |

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| Jeffries & Company Inc.                | \$ 11,000    |
| Lazard Freres & Co. LLC                | \$ 1,000,000 |
| LDG Limited                            | \$ 250,000   |
| Lehman Brothers International Europe   | \$ 1,550,000 |
| Lexington Vantage Fund (TQA)           | \$ 4,613,000 |
| Lipper Convertibles Series II, L.P.'s  | \$ 1,875,000 |
| Lipper Offshore Convertibles, L.P.     | \$ 436,000   |
| Lipper Offshore Convertibles, L.P. #2  | \$ 750,000   |
| Lippers Convertibles, L.P.'s (Class B) | \$ 436,000   |
| Local Initiatives Union                | \$ 72,000    |
| Lord Abbett Bond Debenture Fund        | \$ 2,000,000 |
| Lord Abbett Bond Debenture Fund        | \$ 500,000   |

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|---|----------------|
| Lumberman's Mutual Casualty                     | \$ 643,000     |
| Mainstay Convertible Fund                       | \$ 5,000,000   |
| Mainstay VP Convertible Portfolio               | \$ 1,000,000   |
| Man Convertible Bond Master Fund, Ltd.          | \$ 131,378,240 |
| McMahan Securities                              | \$ 2,150,000   |
| Merlin BioMed, L.P.                             | \$ 2,500,000   |
| Merlin BioMed II, L.P.                          | \$ 312,500     |
| Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith Inc.   | \$ 1,535,000   |
| Morgan Stanley & Co.                            | \$ 500,000     |
| Nabisco Corporation                             | \$ 45,000      |
| Nalco Chemical Company                          | \$ 335,000     |
| Nations Convertible Securities Fund             | \$ 3,300,000   |
| New Orleans Firefighters Pension/Relief Fund    | \$ 166,000     |
| New York Life Separate Account #7               | \$ 600,000     |
| New York Life Insurance and Annuity Corporation | \$ 17,000,000  |
| New York Life Insurance Company                 | \$ 19,500,000  |

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|---|--------------|
| Nicholas Applegate Convertible Fund           | \$ 2,107,000 |
| Occidental Petroleum Corporation              | \$ 305,000   |
| Onex Industrial Partners                      | \$ 1,850,000 |
| Onyx Capital Management, LLC                  | \$ 5,000,000 |
| Oxford, Lord Abbett & Co.                     | \$ 800,000   |
| Pacific Life Insurance Company                | \$ 500,000   |
| Pebble Capital Inc.                           | \$ 700,000   |
| Penn Treaty Network America Insurance Company | \$ 295,000   |

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| Peoples Benefit Life Insurance Company Teamsters   | \$ 3,725,000  |
| PGEP IV, LLC   | \$ 113,000    |
| Physicians Life  | \$ 487,000    |
| PIMCO Convertible Bond   | \$ 3,000,000  |
| Police & Fireman Retirement System of the City of Detroit  | \$ 850,000    |
| Pro Mutual   | \$ 1,171,000  |
| Putnam Investment Management Inc. on behalf of:<br>Putnam Asset Allocation Funds-Balanced Portfolio        | \$ 190,000    |
| Putnam Investment Management, Inc. on behalf of:<br>Putnam Asset Allocation Funds - Conservative Portfolio | \$ 130,000    |
| Putnam Investment Management, Inc. on behalf of:<br>Putnam Convertible Income-Growth Trust                 | \$ 1,000,000  |
| Putnam Investment Management, Inc. on behalf of:<br>Putnam Convertible Opportunities and Income Trust      | \$ 70,000     |
| Quattro Global Capital, LLC  | \$ 1,500,000  |
| Quattro Global Capital, LLC  | \$ 1,500,000  |
| Ramius Capital Group Holdings, Ltd.  | \$ 900,000    |
| Raytheon Master Pension Trust  | \$ 829,000    |
| RCG Latitude Master Fund, Ltd.   | \$ 1,800,000  |
| RJ Reynolds (RJR)  | \$ 143,000    |
| Robertson Stephens   | \$ 30,000,000 |
| San Diego City Retirement  | \$ 1,247,000  |

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| San Diego County Convertible               | \$ 2,674,000  |
| San Diego Employees Retirement Association | \$ 1,900,000  |
| Salomon Brothers Asset Management Inc.     | \$ 31,750,000 |

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|--|----------------|
| Screen Actors Guild Convertible  | \$ 662,000     |
| SG Cowen Securities  | \$ 12,000,000  |
| Shell Pension Trust  | \$ 642,000     |
| Silvercreek Limited Partnership  | \$ 1,100,000   |
| Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance  | \$ 770,000     |
| St. Thomas Trading, Ltd.   | \$ 215,519,360 |
| State of Maryland Retirement Agency  | \$ 3,880,000   |
| State of Oregon Equity   | \$ 5,975,000   |
| State Street Bank custodian For GE Pension Trust                               | \$ 1,805,000   |
| Starvest Combined Portfolio  | \$ 1,185,000   |
| Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association                                     | \$ 4,000,000   |
| The Estate of James Campbell   | \$ 509,000     |
| The Putnam Advisory Company, Inc. on behalf of:<br>University of Rochester     | \$ 30,000      |
| The Putnam Advisory Company, Inc. on behalf of:<br>Parker-Hammifin Corporation | \$ 50,000      |
| The Putnam Advisory Company, Inc. on behalf of:<br>Museum of Fine Arts, Boston | \$ 30,000      |
| The Putnam Advisory Company, Inc. on behalf of:<br>ProMutual                   | \$ 100,000     |
| TQA Master Fund  | \$ 950,000     |
| TQA Master Plus Fund, Ltd.   | \$ 1,000,000   |
| Tracor, Inc. Employees Retirement Plan   | \$ 172,000     |
| Transamerica Life Insurance and Annuity Company                                | \$ 8,000,000   |
| Transamerica Premier Balanced Fund   | \$ 1,000,000   |
| UBS O'Connor LLC, F/B/O UBS Global Equity Arbitrage<br>Master Limited          | \$ 500,000     |

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|---|--------------|
| Value Realization Fund B L.P.                       | \$ 450,000   |
| Value Realization Fund L.P.                         | \$ 8,000,000 |
| Viacom Inc. Pension Plan Master Trust               | \$ 68,000    |
| Wake Forest University                              | \$ 1,163,000 |
| Writers Guild Convertible                           | \$ 385,000   |
| Wyoming State Treasurer                             | \$ 1,329,000 |
| Zeneca Holdings Trust                               | \$ 765,000   |
| Zurich HFR Master Hedge Fund Index Ltd.             | \$ 250,000   |
| Zurich HFR Calamos Holding Limited                  | \$ 80,000    |
| Zurich HFR Master Hedge Fund Index Ltd.             | \$ 200,000   |
| Zurich International Benchmark Fund                 | \$ 2,306,500 |
| 1976 Distribution Trust FBO A.R. Lauder/Zinterhofer | \$ 21,000    |
| 1976 Distribution Trust FBO Jane A. Lauder          | \$ 21,000    |

(1) The number of securities beneficially owned is determined under the rules of the SEC and the information is not necessarily indicative of beneficial ownership for any other purpose. Under those rules, beneficial ownership includes any securities as to which the individual has sole or shared voting power or investment power and also any securities which the individual has the right to acquire within 60 days after the date the selling holder provided this information, through the exercise of any stock option or other right. The inclusion in the table of securities, however, does not constitute an admission that the selling holders are direct or indirect beneficial owners of those securities. The selling holders have sole voting power and investment power with respect to all securities of capital stock listed as owned by the selling holders.

This Prospectus Supplement No. 4 should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus dated March 9, 2001.

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