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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Commonwealth Biotechnologies, Inc. Receives Notice of Allowance for HIV
Patent**

Technology Measures Enzyme Activity Associated with Human Aids Virus

RICHMOND, VA (July 16, 2003) - Commonwealth Biotechnologies, Inc. (NASDAQ SmallCap Market: CBTE), a life sciences contract research organization and biotechnology company, was notified today by the United States Patent and Trademark Office that the claims made in its Patent Application, entitled "Measuring Viral Reverse Transcriptase Activity," have been allowed in their entirety. A Notice of Allowance from the Patent Office is usually the prelude to near-term patent issuance.

The CBI technology is considered a new-generation PERT assay – PCR Enhanced Reverse Transcriptase – and details a sensitive measure for the presence of residual HIV reverse transcriptase. As such, the assay method is applicable for screening blood and pharmaceutical products, or for measuring the course of viral infection in patient samples. "In principal, the same method developed by CBI can be used to measure the presence of residual reverse transcriptase attributable to other RNA viruses, " said Tom Reynolds, Executive Vice President, CBI, co-inventor of the technology with Dr. Robert B. Harris, President and CEO, CBI. "This should find general utility in screening pharmaceuticals and blood replacement products for the presence of adventitious agents."

The work done at CBI was under the auspices of a contract from Vigen Laboratories, Inc, Wilmette, IL, which is the assignee of the patent. "The science done at CBI has been cutting-edge," said Bill Philips, Executive Vice-President, Vigen. "The ability to

specifically measure the reverse transcriptase attributable to the Aids virus has greatly facilitated our own development of novel anti-viral compounds. In fact, it was CBI's insistence of having a meaningful, rapid assay to meet Vigen's research needs which lead them to development of the assay method."

CBI and Vigen will work together to out-license the technology while at the same time, CBI will initiate assay work for client samples. In much the same manner, CBI is currently performing assays of patient samples for the presence of residual DNA attributable to the various human herpes viruses. This latter technology was also developed under contract to Vigen Laboratories, and has provided revenue to CBI for the past two years.

About CBI:

Founded in 1992, CBI is located at 601 Biotech Drive, Richmond, VA 23235 (1-800-735-9224). CBI has provided comprehensive research and development services to more than 2,700 private, government, and academic customers in the global biotechnology industry. For more information, visit CBI on the web at www.cbi-biotech.com.

About Vigen:

Vigen is truly a virtual company, as it has no employees, labs, office space or the other overhead that absorbs so much of a typical biotechnology capital raise. Vigen's principals and advisors include experienced pharmaceutical executives with the skill sets and laboratory contacts to develop new therapeutic and diagnostic products for sale or licensing to pharmaceutical companies. Vigen's goals are to contract with a collaborator within 12 to 18 months from the time that laboratory work begins and to sell or license its rights at patent or Investigational New Drug Application filing.

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Any statements contained in this release that relate to future plans, events or performance are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties as identified in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Actual results, events, or performance may differ materially. No statement herein should be considered an offer of any securities. Such an offer can only be made in accordance with federal and applicable state securities laws. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as the date hereof. Specifically, there can be no guarantee that CBI and/or Vigen will successfully license the technology or that any revenues will be generated from performance of the assays. The Companies undertake no obligation to publicly release the results of any revisions to these forward looking statements that may be made to reflect the events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

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