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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OncoGenex Hires Senior Executives and Establishes U.S. Based Clinical and Regulatory Operations

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada – September 20, 2005 – OncoGenex Technologies Inc., a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing targeted therapeutics for the treatment of cancer, announced the appointment of Cindy Jacobs, Ph.D., M.D., to the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer and the appointment of Monica Krieger, Ph.D., to Vice President of Regulatory Affairs. Dr. Jacobs will oversee the advancement of OncoGenex' pipeline of preclinical and clinical oncology product candidates, and Dr. Krieger will manage the company's relationship with international regulatory agencies. Key members from Dr. Jacobs' previous clinical research, biostatistics and data management groups will also join the OncoGenex team. Concurrent with the formation of this group, OncoGenex has established U.S. based clinical operations in Seattle, Washington.

"The addition of Drs. Jacobs and Krieger and their clinical research and data management team comes at a pivotal time for the company as we are now implementing our diversified clinical trial strategy of our lead product candidate, OGX-011, by conducting multiple Phase II studies for various cancers," said Scott Cormack, President and CEO of OncoGenex. "The regulatory team will also support our efforts to submit an Investigational New Drug application with the FDA for OGX-427 and initiate clinical studies in early 2007."

Cormack added, "The addition of a clinical and regulatory group that has led multiple product registrations in oncology provides the experience and the capabilities to immediately contribute to our clinical programs and will be a tremendous asset to OncoGenex as we execute our pivotal trial strategies."

Dr. Jacobs brings more than 20 years of biotechnology industry experience to the OncoGenex management team. Prior to joining OncoGenex, Dr. Jacobs served as Senior Vice President of Clinical Development and Chief Medical Officer at Corixa, now a subsidiary of GlaxoSmithKline, where she oversaw a team that obtained Canadian approval for Melacine, a cancer vaccine for melanoma, and two U.S. approvals for BEXXAR, a treatment for patients with refractory and relapsed non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Prior to her tenure at Corixa, Dr. Jacobs held the position of Vice President of Clinical Research at CellPro, Inc. where she coordinated an international team that achieved both European and U.S. approvals of the CEPRATE SC Stem Cell System for



use in bone marrow and peripheral blood transplantation. Dr. Jacobs also held a number of management positions at Immunex, now known as Amgen, where she was responsible for preclinical development of the rheumatoid arthritis drug today marketed as Enbrel. She received her Ph.D. from Washington State University and her M.D. from the University of Washington Medical School.

“There have been many breakthroughs in cancer treatments in recent years, yet patient resistance to standard therapies such as chemotherapy, hormone ablation therapy and radiation still remains an issue,” said Dr. Jacobs. “OncoGenex’ product candidates target mechanisms associated with treatment resistance and are supported by very strong preclinical proof of concept. OncoGenex’ lead product candidate is also supported by clinical data demonstrating exceptional target regulation and dose-dependent increases in tumour cell death in prostate cancer patients. I look forward to building on this excellent data, leading the OncoGenex clinical team, and advancing OGX-011 and the company’s two preclinical candidates, OGX-427 and OGX-225, through clinical development.”

Dr. Krieger has 23 years of regulatory and clinical affairs experience. She most recently held the position of Vice President of Regulatory Affairs at Corixa, where she worked to obtain the Canadian approval for Melacine and two U.S. approvals for BEXXAR. At CellPro, Inc., Dr. Krieger also obtained two approvals from the FDA for CEPRATE SC. Prior to her tenure at CellPro, Dr. Krieger served as Vice President of Regulatory, Clinical and Quality Assurance at Genetic Systems Corporation, where she led a team that obtained approval for blood banking tests for HIV-1, HIV-2 and hepatitis. She has also held management positions at NeoRx where she led the regulatory group overseeing the development of two oncology products. Dr. Krieger received her Ph.D. from Rutgers University and her M.B.A. from the Darden School at the University of Virginia.

About OncoGenex Technologies

OncoGenex Technologies Inc. (OncoGenex) is a clinical-stage biotechnology company dedicated to improving survival and quality of life of cancer patients by developing targeted therapeutics for treatment-resistant and metastatic cancer. The company currently has several programs in mid and early stage clinical development for various cancers including prostate cancer, non-small cell lung cancer and breast cancer. OncoGenex’ ability to advance drugs quickly and efficiently results from its ability to unite groups with a common interest in treating cancer: universities, hospitals, clinical networks, companies, granting agencies and investors. This efficient business model has enabled OncoGenex to add three products to its development program since 2001. Additional information about OncoGenex is available at www.oncogenex.ca.

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