



Merck announces three significant scientific efforts in the fight against COVID-19

COVID-19 continues to be an extraordinary challenge to the global community. As a company dedicated to saving and improving lives for more than 100 years, we have a special responsibility to help in the fight against COVID-19. Merck has been fully committed to developing an effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic since it was first recognized, and we know that success will require global collaboration among countries and companies and more.

Recently, we announced two COVID-19 vaccine development efforts – a collaboration with IAVI and plans to acquire Themis Bioscience, a company focused on vaccines and immune-modulation therapies for infectious diseases, including COVID-19. We also announced a research collaboration with Ridgeback Biotherapeutics to develop a novel antiviral candidate.

We believe a range of medicines and vaccines will be needed to end the pandemic, and we will continue to pursue multiple pathways and collaborate with others.

As has been the case with many diseases, we are optimistic that our industry's efforts will create new tools and that the unprecedented collaboration we are seeing today will accelerate these efforts. This pandemic underscores the need for our company and our industry to continue to invest in research for the greatest health threats.

Learn more about these scientific efforts:

[IAVI and Merck collaborate to develop vaccine against SARS-CoV-2](#)

We are working with IAVI to develop an investigational vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 using a recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus (rVSV) platform. The vaccine candidate is currently in preclinical development, and clinical studies are planned to start this year. Learn more [here](#).

[Merck to acquire Themis](#)

We have announced plans to acquire Themis and work together to accelerate the development of Themis' SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidate. Learn more [here](#).



[Merck and Ridgeback Bio collaborate to advance development of novel antiviral candidate, EIDD-2801](#)

We have entered into a collaboration agreement with Ridgeback Bio to develop EIDD-2801, an orally available antiviral candidate currently in early clinical development for the treatment of COVID-19. Learn more [here](#).

Forward-Looking Statement of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA

This release of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA (the “company”) includes “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of the company’s management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. There can be no guarantees with respect to pipeline products that the products will receive the necessary regulatory approvals or that they will prove to be commercially successful. If underlying assumptions prove inaccurate or risks or uncertainties materialize, actual results may differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

Risks and uncertainties include but are not limited to, general industry conditions and competition; general economic factors, including interest rate and currency exchange rate fluctuations; the impact of the recent global outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19); the impact of pharmaceutical industry regulation and health care legislation in the United States and internationally; global trends toward health care cost containment; technological advances, new products and patents attained by competitors; challenges inherent in new product development, including obtaining regulatory approval; the company’s ability to accurately predict future market conditions; manufacturing difficulties or delays; financial instability of international economies and sovereign risk; dependence on the effectiveness of the company’s patents and other protections for innovative products; and the exposure to litigation, including patent litigation, and/or regulatory actions.

The company undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Additional factors that could cause results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in the company’s 2019 Annual Report on Form 10-K and the company’s other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) available at the SEC’s Internet site (www.sec.gov).