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News Release

June 17, 2014

Merck KGaA Reaches Mutual Agreement with Ono Pharmaceutical to Terminate the License Agreement on Ceralifimod (ONO-4641)

Darmstadt, Germany, June 17, 2014 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, announced today that it has reached a mutual agreement with Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Osaka, Japan, to terminate the license agreement on ceralifimod (ONO-4641) because it does not meet Merck KGaA's threshold for continued investment. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, obtained worldwide exclusive license rights from Ono Pharmaceutical for the development and commercialization of ceralifimod (ONO-4641) in multiple sclerosis (MS) outside of Japan, Korea and Taiwan in October 2011. The drug candidate is currently in clinical development (Phase II).

Merck KGaA's biopharmaceutical division remains committed to improving the lives of people with MS, and will continue to pursue external collaborations and internal development programs aimed at identifying and developing high quality candidate molecules with the goal of making a real difference in the lives of people with MS.

About multiple sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic, inflammatory condition of the central nervous system and is the most common, non-traumatic, disabling neurological disease in young adults. It is estimated that approximately two million patients have MS worldwide. While symptoms can vary, the most common symptoms of MS include blurred vision, numbness or tingling in the limbs and problems with strength and coordination. The relapsing forms of MS are the most common.

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About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

Merck KGaA of Darmstadt, Germany, is a leading company for innovative and top-quality high-tech products in the pharmaceutical and chemical sectors. Its subsidiaries in Canada and the United States operate under the umbrella brand EMD. Around 38,000 employees work in 66 countries to improve the quality of life for patients, to further the success of customers and to help meet global challenges. The company generated total revenues of € 11.1 billion in 2013 with its four divisions: Biopharmaceuticals, Consumer Health, Performance Materials and Life Science Tools. Merck KGaA of Darmstadt, Germany is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company – since 1668, the name has stood for innovation, business success and responsible entrepreneurship. Holding an approximately 70 percent interest, the founding family remains the majority owner of the company to this day.