CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

APPLICATION NUMBER: 19-766/S040

APPROVAL LETTER

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

NDA 19-766/S-040

Merck & Co., Inc.
Attention: Michael Elia, M.D.
Director, Regulatory Affairs
Sumneytown Pike, P.O. Box 4
BLA-20
West Point, PA 19486

APR 27 2000

Dear Dr. Elia:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated June 30, 1999, received July 1, 1999, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Zocor (simvastatin) Tablets.

We acknowledge receipt of your submissions dated December 2, 1999, and April 6 and 25, 2000.

This supplemental new drug application proposes to amend the DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section of the Zocor package insert to add 40 mg daily as an optional starting dose in patients who require a large reduction in LDL-C (more than 45%).

We have completed the review of this supplemental application, as amended, and have concluded that adequate information has been presented to demonstrate that the drug product is safe and effective for use as recommended in the agreed upon labeling text. Accordingly, the supplemental application is approved effective on the date of this letter.

The final printed labeling (FPL) must be identical to the submitted draft labeling (package insert submitted April 25, 2000).

Please submit 20 copies of the FPL as soon as it is available, in no case more than 30 days after it is printed. Please individually mount ten of the copies on heavy-weight paper or similar material. For administrative purposes, this submission should be designated "FPL for approved supplement NDA ." Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

Be advised that, as of April 1, 1999, all applications for new active ingredients, new dosage forms, new indications, new routes of administration, and new dosing regimens are required to contain an assessment of the safety and effectiveness of the product in pediatric patients unless this requirement is waived or deferred (63 *FR* 66632). We note that you have not fulfilled the requirements of 21 CFR 314.55 (or 601.27). We are waiving the requirement for studies in children less than 10 years of age, and we are deferring submission of your pediatric studies for

children 10 to 16 years of age until March 31, 2002. However, in the interim, please submit your pediatric drug development plans within 120 days from the date of this letter unless you believe a waiver is appropriate. Within approximately 120 days of receipt of your pediatric drug development plan, we will review your plan and notify you of its adequacy.

If you believe that this drug qualifies for a waiver of the pediatric study requirement, you should submit a request for a waiver with supporting information and documentation in accordance with the provisions of 21 CFR 314.55 within 60 days from the date of this letter. We will notify you within 120 days of receipt of your response whether a waiver is granted. If a waiver is not granted, we will ask you to submit your pediatric drug development plans within 120 days from the date of denial of the waiver.

Pediatric studies conducted under the terms of section 505A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act may result in additional marketing exclusivity for certain products (pediatric exclusivity). You should refer to the *Guidance for Industry on Qualifying for Pediatric Exclusivity* (available on our web site at www.fda.gov/cder/pediatric) for details. If you wish to qualify for pediatric exclusivity you should submit a "Proposed Pediatric Study Request" (PPSR) in addition to your plans for pediatric drug development described above. We recommend that you submit a Proposed Pediatric Study Request within 120 days from the date of this letter. If you are unable to meet this time frame but are interested in pediatric exclusivity, please notify the division in writing. FDA generally will not accept studies submitted to an NDA before issuance of a Written Request as responsive to a Written Request. Sponsors should obtain a Written Request before submitting pediatric studies to an NDA. If you do not submit a PPSR or indicate that you are interested in pediatric exclusivity, we will review your pediatric drug development plan and notify you of its adequacy. Please note that satisfaction of the requirements in 21 CFR 314.55 alone may not qualify you for pediatric exclusivity. FDA does not necessarily ask a sponsor to complete the same scope of studies to qualify for pediatric exclusivity as it does to fulfill the requirements of the pediatric rule.

If a letter communicating important information about this drug product (i.e., a "Dear Health Care Practitioner" letter) is issued to physicians and others responsible for patient care, we request that you submit a copy of the letter to this NDA and a copy to the following address:

MEDWATCH, HF-2
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

We remind you that you must comply with the requirements for an approved NDA set forth under 21 CFR 314.80 and 314.81.

If you have any questions, call Margaret Simoneau, R.Ph., Regulatory Management Officer, at (301) 827-6418.

Sincerely,

/S/

John K. Jenkins, M.D.
Acting Director
Division of Metabolic and Endocrine Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation II
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research