DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

NDA 20-599/S-002/S-003/S-005

Aventis Pharmaceuticals
Attention: Kerry Rothschild, J.D.
Director, Regulatory Affairs
200 Crossing Boulevard, P.O. Box 6890
Bridgewater, NJ 08807-0890

Dear Mr. Rothschild:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug applications dated December 24, 1996 (S-002), December 22, 1998 (S-003), and August 17, 1999 (S-005) submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Rilutek (riluzole) 50 mg tablets.

We acknowledge receipt of your submission dated April 24, 2003. Your submission of April 24, 2003, constituted a complete response to our September 6, 2000, and December 18, 2002 action letters.

These "Prior Approval" supplemental new drug applications propose the following revisions to product labeling:

S-002
This supplement provides for revisions to the **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Pharmacokinetics-Special Populations** subsection to describe the special population effects of age, renal impairment and hepatic impairment on the tolerability and pharmacokinetics of riluzole.

S-003
This supplement provides for revisions to the **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Pharmacokinetics-Special Populations** subsection to revise the statement which indicates a difference in clearance between Japanese and Caucasian subjects.

S-005
This supplement provides for revisions to the **PRECAUTIONS-Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility** subsection based upon the results of two carcinogenicity studies.

Additionally, we note that you have incorporated our requested revisions to labeling, as communicated in our September 6, 2000, and December 18, 2002 action letters, verbatim.

We have completed the review of these supplemental applications, 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 submitted final printed labeling (Label Code: 50069093). Accordingly, these supplemental applications are approved effective on the date of this letter.

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 regarding this letter, call Paul David, R.Ph., Senior Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 594-5530.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Russell Katz, M.D.
Director
Division of Neuropharmacological Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation I
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically and this page is the manifestation of the electronic signature.

/s/

Russell Katz

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