Dear Dr. Fromtling:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated October 2, 2009, received October 2, 2009, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for ISENTRESS™ (raltegravir potassium) 400 mg tablets.

This “Changes Being Effected” supplemental new drug application proposes the addition of “thrombocytopenia” in Section 6.2, Postmarketing Experience, of the Package Insert with a corresponding update to the Patient Package Insert.

We have completed our review of this application, as amended. It is approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the enclosed, agreed upon labeling text, which is identical to the content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(l)(1)(i)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format submitted on October 2, 2009.

Within 14 days from the date of this letter, please amend all pending supplemental applications for this NDA, including pending "Changes Being Effected" (CBE) supplements for which FDA has not yet issued an action letter, with the content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(l)(1)(i)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format that includes the changes approved in this supplemental application.

If you issue a letter communicating important safety related information about this drug product (i.e., a “Dear Health Care Professional” letter), we request that you submit an electronic copy of the letter to both this NDA and to the following address:

MedWatch
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 12B05
Rockville, MD 20857
We remind you that you must comply with reporting requirements for an approved NDA (21 CFR 314.80 and 314.81).

If you have any questions, call Amalia Himaya, Regulatory Project Manager, at 301-796-3391 or 301-796-1500.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Debra Birnkrant, M.D.
Director
Division of Antiviral Products
Office of Antimicrobial Products
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

Enclosure: Package Insert and Patient Package Insert labeling
<table>
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<td>MERCK AND CO INC</td>
<td>ISENTRESS</td>
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This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically and this page is the manifestation of the electronic signature.

/s/

KENDALL A MARCUS
11/04/2009