CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

APPLICATION NUMBER: 20-829

APPROVAL LETTER

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

NDA 20-829

FEB 20 1998

Merck Research Laboratories
Sumneytown Pike
P.O. Box 4
West Point, PA 19486

Attention: William G. Roberts, M.D.
Director, Regulatory Affairs

Dear Dr. Roberts:

Please refer to your new drug application (NDA), dated and received February 21, 1997, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Singulair (montelukast sodium) Tablets.

We acknowledge receipt of your amendments dated March 18, April 11, May 1, June 17, and 19, July 3, 10, 15, and 30, September 4, 5, 23, and 29, October 14, 16, and 29, November 7, 13, 14, 18, 25, and 26, and December 4, 8, 9, 11, and 31, 1997, and January 2, 12, 20, 26, and 28, and February 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 12, and 20, 1998. The user fee goal date is February 21, 1998.

This new drug application provides for the use of Singulair Tablets for the prophylaxis and chronic treatment of asthma in patients 15 years and older.

We have completed the review of this 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 draft labeling. Accordingly, the application is approved effective on the date of this letter.

The final printed labeling (FPL) must be identical to the draft physician labeling and patient package insert submitted on February 20, 1998, and mock-up carton and container labels submitted on November 25, 1997. Marketing the product with FPL that is not identical to this draft labeling may render the product misbranded and an unapproved new drug.

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 NDA 20-829."

Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

In addition, please submit three copies of the introductory promotional material that you propose to use for this product. All proposed materials should be submitted in draft or mock-up form, not final print. Please send one copy to the Division of Pulmonary Drug Products and two copies of both the promotional material and the package insert directly to the following:

Food and Drug Administration
Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising,
and Communications, HFD-40
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Validation of the regulatory methods has not been completed. At the present time, it is the policy of the Center not to withhold approval because the methods are being validated. Nevertheless, we expect your continued cooperation to resolve any problems that may be identified.

Please submit one market package of the drug product when it is available.

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

Within 30 days of the date of this letter, please submit a labeling supplement revising the PRECAUTIONS, Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility and Pregnancy subsections and OVERDOSAGE section so that the dosage comparison between humans and animals is based on plasma drug concentrations rather than body surface area.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Betty Kuzmik, Project Manager, at (301)827-1051.

Sincerely,

/S/

James Bilstad, M.D.
Director
Office of Drug Evaluation II
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research