MSD's SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Efforts: Timeline

2020

January 9, 2020
The WHO indicates that the infection is caused by a new type of coronavirus

January 10
China shares the genetic code of the new virus

January 13
First reported spread of new coronavirus outside of China with a case in Thailand

January 21
US CDC confirms first case of coronavirus in the US

January 27
MSD Research Labs convenes a research team to gather current understanding of virus and identify possible approaches for vaccines and therapeutics, and initiates efforts to identify compounds with potential activity against SARS-CoV-2. Over the next several weeks, nearly 1,000 compounds from MSD's vast libraries are evaluated for activity against SARS-CoV-2.

January 30
WHO declares the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern

Early March
Starting in March, MSD engaged in discussions with a broad range of external organizations to find opportunities to lend our expertise and capabilities to others' scientific efforts, and to identify promising scientific platforms for anti-virals and vaccines that MSD could help to develop and manufacture on a global scale. These discussions resulted in several collaborations over the next few months.

March 11
WHO declares COVID-19 a Pandemic

March 25
MSD joins Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation COVID-19 consortium

April 17
MSD joins ACTIV, NIH-led initiative to help speed development of investigational COVID-19 vaccine and treatment options

April 27
MSD and Institute for Systems Biology announce a new research collaboration to define molecular mechanisms of SARS-CoV-2 infection and identify potential prognostic biomarkers

May 26
MSD announces multiple scientific efforts to combat COVID-19: with Ridgeback Bio, to develop a novel, oral antiviral candidate (MK-4482); with IAVI, to develop an rVSV-vector based vaccine (V590); and to acquire Themis, to develop a measles-vector based vaccine (V591)

June 12
MSD and Peptidream announce collaboration to discover and develop peptide therapeutics for the treatment of COVID-19

June 19
Ridgeback Bio announces start of Phase 2 trials of MK-4482

MSD announces completion of acquisition of Themis

July 14
MSD and N.J.-based hospital system Hackensack Meridian announce collaboration to investigate drugs for treating COVID-19

July 21
MSD and IRBM announce collaboration to develop investigational peptides against COVID-19

August 24
First patient dosed in Phase 1 study of V591

October 19
First patient dosed in Phase 2/3 study of MK-4482

November 2
First patient dosed in Phase 1 study of V590

November 23
MSD announces the planned acquisition of OncoImmune to accelerate development of CD24Fc, a candidate for the treatment of patients hospitalized with COVID-19

December 23
MSD announces completion of Oncoimmune acquisition

2021

January 25, 2021
MSD announces discontinuation of V590 and V591 vaccine programs and continued focus on development of two investigational therapeutic candidates

March 2
MSD announces agreement with BARDA to make some of the company's manufacturing facilities available for production of COVID-19 vaccines and medicines, and announces agreements with Johnson & Johnson to support manufacturing and supply of Johnson & Johnson's SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 vaccine

April 15
MSD and Ridgeback Bio announce that the Phase 3 study of molnupiravir in outpatients will proceed; the Phase 2/3 study in hospitalized patients will not proceed. MSD also announces the discontinuation of development of MK-7110 for COVID-19.

April 27
MSD announces voluntary licensing agreements with several established Indian generics manufacturers to accelerate global access to molnupiravir (MK-4482) following approval or emergency authorization by local regulatory agencies

June 9
MSD announces a procurement agreement with the U.S. Government to supply molnupiravir if authorized or approved by FDA.

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