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MAY 2020



## COVID-19

### *How AACI's Corporate Partners Are Helping Cancer Centers and Their Patients Weather the Pandemic*

As AACI continues to closely monitor the coronavirus pandemic, we are pleased to share this overview of ways that our **Corporate Roundtable** members are directly supporting cancer centers and their patients during these unprecedented and challenging times.

The AACI Corporate Roundtable provides a forum for AACI cancer centers to address topics of mutual interest with their pharmaceutical industry colleagues. This interaction has the potential to advance the progress of research and ultimately benefit patients with cancer and their families.

COVID-19 assistance from our corporate partners covers a wide range of activities, from maintaining the integrity of clinical trials and ensuring the flow of protective equipment and other supplies to cancer centers, to accelerating vaccine development and providing medicine to patients facing financial hardship.

AACI thanks its Corporate Roundtable members for sharing information about their cancer-related COVID-19 work and for their ongoing support and commitment: **AbbVie, Amgen, Astellas, Bristol Myers Squibb, Genentech, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Kite, Lilly, Merck, Pfizer, and Takeda Oncology.**

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## Amgen



**As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, Amgen is committed to doing everything we can to deliver for patients, keep our staff and their families safe, and help communities where we live and work.**

For those living with cancer, this is an especially difficult time. We continue to provide support services to patients and health care providers through our Amgen Assist 360™ program. Through this program, patients and providers can find resources for financial assistance and information about Amgen treatments, as well as connect to our AMGEN Nurse Ambassadors, a single point of contact designed to connect patients with helpful resources. More information is available at 1-888-4ASSIST or at [amgenassist360.com](http://amgenassist360.com).

For those involved in clinical trials, we are committed to continued research. We are evaluating all clinical trials to minimize risk to patients and facilities and allowing enrollment to continue where possible.

Amgen and the Amgen Foundation are also helping fight this global pandemic by donating \$12.5 million to support U.S. and global relief efforts while our researchers are collaborating with peers to develop antibodies to treat or prevent COVID-19. Learn more about our efforts during this crisis at [amgen.com/covid-19](http://amgen.com/covid-19).

## Bristol Myers Squibb



**Bristol Myers Squibb is actively contributing to the fight against COVID-19. We are supporting our communities, promoting public health, contributing to collaborative COVID-19 research efforts, and carrying out our mission of providing lifesaving medicines to the patients who depend on us.**

While protecting the health and safety of our workforce, we are ensuring there is no disruption to the supply of our medicines to patients.

As part of our commitment to patients, we continue to provide support to those who need our medicines. We have expanded our existing Bristol Myers Squibb patient support programs to provide free access to branded Bristol Myers Squibb medicines to eligible unemployed patients in the U.S. who have lost their health insurance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our colleagues have mobilized to help respond to the COVID-19 crisis, and we are supporting relief efforts across the globe. The Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, has provided more than \$6 million in financial support to COVID-19 related relief efforts, including \$2.5 million to human service organizations and patient support groups that are providing food services, critical education and aid to vulnerable populations in communities around the world.

For more details, please visit [here](#).

## Genentech



**Genentech takes the health and safety of our patients, customers, employees, and local communities very seriously and are closely monitoring and evaluating the situation as it evolves. We are actively responding on a number of fronts to support the cancer community.**

As part of our efforts, we're focused on ensuring patient safety and data integrity across all of our clinical trials and working closely with trial sites to find new and flexible ways to adapt to the challenges they are facing and safely enable continued study participation wherever possible. We're supporting our trial sites in making decisions that are in the best interests of their patients, their institutions, and their communities.

We also understand that many of our patients and their families are facing personal and financial challenges due to the pandemic. Getting prescribed medicines should not be one of them. We have evolved our existing patient assistance programs to help patients during this challenging time.

We know that needs will continue to emerge over the coming weeks and months, and we are in close contact with community partners around what additional support Genentech may provide.

## Janssen Pharmaceuticals



**The Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson are committed to rapid scientific progress toward treatment and prevention measures for COVID-19. We are accelerating the development of a vaccine while working in parallel with partners to screen a library of antiviral molecules, with the aim to identify potential treatments for rigorous research and development.**

We are collaborating with regulators, health care organizations, and academic institutions worldwide to ensure that our discovery platforms, research capabilities, and outbreak expertise can be maximized to stem this public health threat, especially for vulnerable patients with cancer.

With these critical efforts underway, we are simultaneously committed to ensuring safe continuity of care for patients participating in our oncology clinical studies and supporting investigators and site personnel during this unprecedented time. Such efforts, in accordance with FDA guidance, include facilitating the delivery of treatment supplies directly to study participants, creating flexibility in testing schedules and labs, providing additional resources for managing data entry backlogs, and offering digital tools to enhance patient and investigator communication.

Our commitment remains to patients, investigators and site research staff supporting clinical trial participants with a priority on safety of all those involved in this important work.

## Kite



**Kite, a Gilead Company, is committed to ensuring safe, timely and sustainable access to cell therapies for eligible patients. Kite is acutely aware of the clinical and operational challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic for patients, health care professionals and authorized treatment centers (ATCs).** In particular, we know that the needs of patients eligible for cell therapy treatment are having to be assessed and accommodated within a radically altered environment where resources have to be carefully managed and applied.

With this in mind, Kite is working with ATCs to address the needs of cell therapy patients who are being considered for treatment with YESCARTA® (axicabtagene ciloleucel). For these patients, timing is critical. Therefore, Kite is applying an interim operating arrangement for

the duration of the current emergency caused by the pandemic to support the timely apheresis of eligible YESCARTA patients while allowing the center the operational flexibility to determine the timing of product delivery and infusion.

## Lilly



**Lilly's purpose—to make life better—has never been more important. We're attacking this pandemic with everything we can – moving quickly on potential treatments, supporting our communities, and helping health care providers on the front lines.**

Lilly is co-developing antibodies for the potential treatment and prevention of COVID-19, and studying a Lilly medicine as an arm in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' Adaptive COVID-19 Treatment Trial. The company will also study an investigational medicine in pneumonia patients hospitalized with COVID-19 who are at a higher risk of progressing to acute respiratory distress syndrome. Additionally, Lilly joined a cross-industry collaboration and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate the development, manufacture, and delivery of

vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments for COVID-19.

Headquartered in Indianapolis, Lilly has redirected other scientific efforts to help the Indiana State Department of Health accelerate COVID-19 testing – using specialized labs to test samples taken in health care facilities, and launching a drive-through testing facility for people on the front lines of the crisis such as health care professionals, first responders, and workers in essential jobs.

Through the Lilly Insulin Value Program, the company is making monthly prescriptions of Lilly insulin available for as little as \$35 to people with diabetes in the U.S. who have commercial insurance, or no insurance. In its Indianapolis hometown, Lilly and the Lilly Foundation helped launch community funds to help stabilize organizations that serve individuals and families affected by the pandemic, and support educators and families during the transition to remote learning in response to the crisis. Lilly also has operations in some of the hardest-hit regions of the world—including China, Italy, Spain, and France—where community support ranges from making hand sanitizer for local hospitals, to donations of insulin, to contributions to long-standing partners such as Project HOPE, Direct Relief, and the Red Cross.

## Merck



First and foremost, thank you to the AACI cancer centers for your dedication to advancing patient care and research efforts during this unprecedented time. **Merck is committed to doing our part to help by ensuring that our supply of medicines and vaccines reach our patients, contributing our scientific expertise to the development of antiviral approaches, and supporting our health care providers and our communities.**

Thanks to the commitment of our colleagues around the world, we continue to have normal supply levels for most of our medicines and vaccines. Driven by our steadfast commitment to patients, we are making every effort to ensure that patients in affected areas who are enrolled in our oncology clinical trials are able to continue their treatment

and receive appropriate care and monitoring.

Our highest priority is to maintain the continuity of patients currently enrolled in over 1,000 ongoing oncology clinical studies. Conditions are fluid and evolving, but as local conditions allow, we are enrolling patients in ongoing studies and we are starting new studies. We also recognize the changing needs of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic and we recently announced new steps to support patients in the United States who may have lost their jobs and insurance coverage.

## Pfizer



**As we respond to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, our guideposts at Pfizer continue to be the safety of participants already in our studies, the safety of new participants being entered into our studies, and the wellness of our investigators.**

We are continuously monitoring the situation across our >100 Oncology studies and are working on a site-by-site basis to implement solutions that meet the unique needs of each study site. Where site visits have been difficult for participants or study staff, we have enabled telemedicine and home health visits or supported shipping investigational medicine directly to patients. This includes trials that require investigational medicines be shipped with special cold chain provisions

for oral solutions such as in our Xalkori expanded access study for pediatric and adult patients.

To ensure patient safety and the integrity of the data that sites collect, we are working to implement remote technologies or, where allowed by applicable law, a secure digital repository to conduct important monitoring visits. During this challenging time, we are committed to meeting the individual needs of the >2500 oncology study sites around the world with whom we partner on behalf of patients.

## Takeda Oncology



**At Takeda, we have a responsibility to do as much as possible to help our communities, and are using our resources as global pharmaceutical leader to address the COVID-19 pandemic and to try to help minimize its transmission and impact around the world.**

As part of the CoVlg-19 Plasma Alliance, we are working with academic institutions, health care agencies, and other companies to accelerate the development of **CoVlg-19**, a plasma-derived therapy that shows promise in treating COVID-19. Additionally, we are proactively managing adequate levels of inventory and/or additional suppliers to produce our medicines and ensure continuity of quality product supply for patients.

Takeda is providing financial support to organizations that help those impacted by the pandemic, including relief funds for families and the American Red Cross' efforts to maintain a sufficient supply of blood. We are also working with MassBio's Life Sciences Emergency Supply Hub Coalition and other industry partners to provide personal protective equipment and other much-needed supplies. We are proud to work alongside our partners in industry, academia, government, and within our communities as we remain dedicated to the health and well-being of people around the globe.



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