

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

March 5, 2021

Dear Mr. President:

We would like to congratulate you on the more than 80 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered to Americans to date. As we continue to work to vaccinate Americans, we must also acknowledge that COVID-19 anywhere in the world means our collective fight against this virus is not done. As representatives of biopharmaceutical companies and members of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the association representing the global research-based biopharmaceutical industry in the United States, we applaud your commitment and funding support for the COVAX Facility. As you know, COVAX was created to speed up global vaccination efforts particularly in lower- and middle-income countries and is crucial to disseminating the vaccine globally. As founding members of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, of which COVAX is a key pillar, the industry is pleased to see that COVAX delivered vaccine doses to Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya and Rwanda as it begins its roll-out of 2 billion doses to the developing world.

The progress made over the last year is nothing short of incredible. There are currently multiple treatments and vaccines authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and global regulatory agencies for use against COVID-19, and one medicine is approved for the treatment of COVID-19. None of that work would have been possible without the unprecedented collaboration between research-based biopharmaceutical companies, U.S. and global governments, multilateral organizations, nongovernmental institutions and many others.

As you and your team know, developing and manufacturing safe and effective vaccines consistently on a global scale is a massive undertaking. COVID-19 vaccines are complex biologic products. The manufacturing requires specialized experience, expertise and equipment. For example, only a few facilities in the world perform some of the critical steps needed to manufacture mRNA vaccines. Supply chain challenges are being dealt with daily, including in partnership with your Administration. As you have seen first-hand, thousands of dedicated American workers at biopharmaceutical manufacturing sites and suppliers throughout the United States are playing a critical role in this effort.

To manage these demands, many of us are working with other manufacturers worldwide with the appropriate expertise, technical capabilities and facilities and have entered into partnerships and licensing agreements to speed up the production and distribution of vaccines. In fact, another major agreement between two global companies to enhance vaccine manufacturing capacity was just announced this week.

Intellectual property protections have been essential not only to speed the research and development of new treatments and vaccines, but also to facilitate sharing of technology and information to scale up

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vaccine manufacturing to meet global needs. Eliminating those protections would undermine the global response to the pandemic, including ongoing effort to tackle new variants, create confusion that could potentially undermine public confidence in vaccine safety, and create a barrier to information sharing. Most importantly, eliminating protections would not speed up production.

Unfortunately, in October, India and South Africa formally proposed to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to suspend critical intellectual property provisions of the TRIPS Agreement. This includes the protection and enforcement of copyrights, industrial designs, patents and trade secrets on any COVID-19 innovation until widespread vaccination is in place globally. In requesting the waiver, India and South Africa argued without evidence that intellectual property is hindering the global response to the pandemic and that the waiver would help scale up research, development, manufacturing and supply of needed products.

The U.S. government has stood alongside other governments—including the European Union, United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, Brazil, and Norway—to oppose this waiver. We urge your Administration to maintain this longstanding support for innovation and American jobs by continuing to oppose the TRIPS IP waiver.

Intellectual property is the foundation for both the development and sharing of new technologies. Perhaps more than any other time in history, society is seeing and benefiting from the innovation supported by intellectual property. Despite the immense challenge of scaling manufacturing on novel technologies, current estimates are that COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers will supply approximately 10 billion doses by the end of 2021, enough to vaccinate the entire current global vaccine eligible population.

The biopharmaceutical industry remains committed to working with you and your team to bring this pandemic to an end as quickly as possible through the research, development, manufacture and distribution of vaccines and therapeutics for COVID-19.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen J. Ubl
President and CEO
PhRMA



David A. Ricks
Chairman and CEO
Eli Lilly and Company

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Ramona Sequeira
President
Takeda Pharmaceuticals U.S.A., Inc.



Vas Narasimhan, M.D.
CEO
Novartis



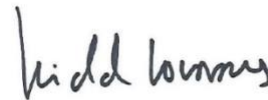
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Executive Vice President, Commercial
Operations
AbbVie



Sebastian Guth, PhD
President of Pharmaceuticals, Americas Region
Bayer AG



Robert A. Bradway
Chairman and CEO
Amgen Inc.



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CEO
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Senior Vice President
Astellas Pharma US Inc.



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Chairman and CEO
BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc.

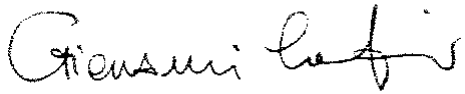


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Executive Director and CEO
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP



Jean-Michel Boers
President and CEO
Boehringer Ingelheim USA Corporation

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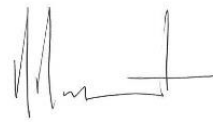
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Bristol Myers Squibb Company



Emma Walmsley
CEO
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CEO and Managing Director
CSL Behring



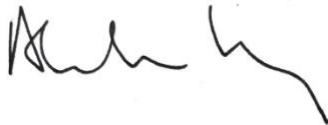
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Incyte Corporation



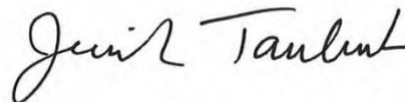
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Chairman and CEO
Eisai Inc.



Richard Paulson
CEO, Ipsen North America
Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals, Inc.



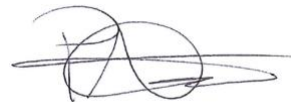
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CEO
Genentech, Inc.



Jennifer Taubert
Executive Vice President
Worldwide Chairman
Pharmaceuticals
Johnson & Johnson

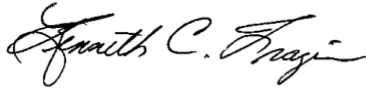


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Gilead Sciences, Inc.



Peter Anastasiou
Executive Vice President, North America
Lundbeck LLC

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Sage Therapeutics