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Public Relations, Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
Tel: +81-6-6263-5670

Communications Office, Banyu Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.,
Tel: +81-3-6272-1001

Data Released at ADA showed efficacy in the Investigational use of a new oral medicine for type 2 diabetes, sitagliptin, and other medicine as Initial Combination Therapy (First Report)

Merck & Co., Inc, Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, USA issued a press release on June 23, 2007 (US local time), announcing new investigational data of sitagliptin when it was used in combination with other medicine as the initial therapy and when added to other medicines in patients with type 2 diabetes. The data were presented at the American Diabetes Association (ADA) 67th Scientific Sessions held in Chicago (June 22 - 26). Sitagliptin is the Company's new oral medicine for type 2 diabetes, called DPP-4 inhibitor. It was launched in the United States last autumn. Sitagliptin enhances a natural body system, called the incretin system, which helps to regulate glucose by affecting the beta cells and alpha cells in the pancreas. Main content of the data presented this time is as follows.

- Investigational use of initial combination therapy with sitagliptin and metformin significantly improved blood sugar control compared with metformin alone over one year
- In this study, 67 percent of patients with type 2 diabetes achieved HBA1C of less than 7 percent (HbA1C percentage as recommended by the American Diabetes Association) with investigational use of sitagliptin and metformin as initial combination therapy compared to 44 percent on metformin alone at 54 weeks
- A separate, investigational study showed sitagliptin significantly improved blood sugar control when added to Sulfonylurea or to Sulfonylurea and metformin vs. Sulfonylurea or Sulfonylurea and metformin alone
- A pooled analysis of 5,141 patients showed overall incidence of adverse experiences, incidence of serious adverse experiences, and incidence of discontinuations due to

adverse experiences were similar in the sitagliptin and non-exposed groups for up to two years

Sitagliptin is the first and only DPP-4 inhibitor to be marketed in the United States for patients with type 2 diabetes, and is indicated, as an adjunct to diet and exercise, to improve glycaemic control in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Sitagliptin is also indicated to improve glycaemic control, in combination with metformin or a thiazolidinedione (TZD), in patients with type 2 diabetes when the single agent alone plus diet and exercise do not provide adequate glycaemic control. Moreover, one sNDA is filed with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in support of a proposed new indication for the use of sitagliptin, as an adjunct to diet and exercise, in combination with metformin as initial therapy to improve glycaemic control. The other sNDA is filed in support of two proposed new indications for use of sitagliptin, as an adjunct to diet and exercise, as add-on therapy to a sulfonylurea when the single agent alone does not provide adequate glycaemic control and as add-on therapy to the combination of a sulfonylurea plus metformin when dual therapy does not provide adequate glycaemic control. The FDA is reviewing the sNDA for these indications.

Also, the Company's clinical development program for sitagliptin is robust and continues to expand with 47 studies completed or under way, and nine more studies set to begin this year. There have been more than 7,600 patients in the Company’s clinical studies with about 4,700 of these patients, being treated with sitagliptin. Additionally, about 1,900 patients have been treated with sitagliptin for more than a year.

This press release is a short and recompiled version of the original press release issued by Merck & Co., Inc, Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, USA on June 23, 2007 (US local time) in conjunction with the American Diabetes Association (ADA) 67th Scientific Sessions. The original press release in English can be accessed on the Company's web site (http://www.merck.com/newsroom/). Another short Japanese version of the second press release issued on June 25, 2007 (US local time) will follow shortly.

In Japan, sitagliptin is in Phase III by Banyu and Ono in accordance with the licensing agreement between Merck & Co., Inc, Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, U.S.A. and Ono executed in November 2004 (Developmental Code: MK-0431/ONO-5435).

This press release is a short Japanese version into which is translated and redigested of the first press release issued by Merck & Co., Inc, Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, U.S.A. on June 23, 2007 (US local time), and thus the content and interpretation of the original English version have a priority over this Japanese version.