NDA 20-903/S-001
NDA 20-903/S-002

Schering-Plough Research Institute
Attention: Joseph F. Lamendola, Ph.D.
2000 Galloping Hill Road
Kenilworth, NJ 07033

Dear Dr. Lamendola:

Please refer to your June 15, 1998 and September 23, 1998, supplemental new drug applications (NDA) submitted pursuant to section 505 (b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Rebetol® (Ribavirin), 200mg capsules for use in combination with the previously licensed biologic product, Intron® A (interferon alfa-2b, recombinant), 3 million IU injectable and marketed as Rebetron Combination Therapy Pak.

We acknowledge receipt of your amendment dated:

October 2, 1998

The supplemental application S-001, provides for Rebetol (ribavirin) capsules for use in combination with Intron A (interferon alfa 2-b, recombinant) for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C in patients with compensated liver disease previously untreated with alpha interferon therapy. Additionally, the supplement S-002 provides for strengthened Contraindications, Warnings, and Precautions sections of the label, to further caution against use during pregnancy.

We have completed the review of these supplemental applications, including the submitted draft labeling, and have concluded that adequate information has been presented to demonstrate that the drug product is safe and effective for the use as recommended in the enclosed marked-up draft labeling submitted on December 8, 1998. Accordingly, the supplemental applications are approved effective on the date of this letter.

As stated in our letter dated November 12, 1998, we remind you that the approval of the Rebetron Combination Therapy package in no way restricts, nor precludes a request by Schering Corporation to market the individual components separately for their approved use. Should you wish to discuss alternative marketing package options that would make available the ribavirin component alone, the Division is open to such discussions and we would be willing to work with you regarding appropriate revisions to the approved product labeling.

The final printed labeling (FPL) must be identical to the December 8, 1998 draft labeling. Marketing the product with FPL that is not identical to this draft labeling may render the product misbranded and an unapproved new drug.

Additionally, we remind you of your Phase 4 commitments as specified in the original approval letter dated June 3, 1998.

Please submit sixteen 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 copies on heavy weight paper or similar material. For administrative purposes, this submission should be designated "FINAL PRINTED LABELING" for approved NDA 20-903/S-001, S-002." Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

Should additional information relating to the safety and effectiveness of the drug become available, revision of that labeling may be required.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Terrie L. Crescenzi, R.Ph., Regulatory Management Officer at (301) 827-2335.

Sincerely yours,

Heidi M. Jolson, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Division of Antiviral Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation IV
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research