DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville, MD 20857

NDA 21-511/S-005

Hoffmann-La Roche Inc.
Attention: Karen H. Noh, Senior Program Manager
340 Kingsland Street
Nutley, NJ 07110-1199

Dear Dr. Noh:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated August 26, 2004, received August 30, 2004, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Copegus® (ribavirin) 200 mg tablets.

We acknowledge receipt of your submissions dated September 30, 2004, October 5, 2004, October 21, 2004, October 22, 2004, November 5, 2004, November 12, 2004, November 17, 2004, November 19, 2004, November 23, 2004 (2), December 15, 2004 (2), December 17, 2004, December 22, 2004, January 4, 2005, January 6, 2005, January 10, 2005, January 11, 2005, January 17, 2005, January 21, 2005, January 28, 2005, January 31, 2005, February 7, 2005, February 8, 2005, February 9, 2005, February 11, 2005, February 16, 2005, February 17, 2005 and February 25, 2005.

This supplemental new drug application provides for the use of Copegus® (ribavirin) 200 mg tablet for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C in adult patients coinfected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in combination with Pegasys® (peginterferon alfa-2a).

We completed our review of this application, as amended. It is approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the agreed-upon labeling text.

The final printed labeling (FPL) must be identical to the enclosed labeling (text for the package insert and text for the medication guide) submitted February 25, 2005. Marketing the product with FPL that is not identical to the approved labeling text may render the product misbranded and an unapproved new drug.

Please submit an electronic version of the FPL according to the guidance for industry titled *Providing Regulatory Submissions in electronic Format – NDA.* Alternatively, you may submit 20 paper copies of the FPL as soon as it is available but no more than 30 days after it is printed. Individually mount 15 of the copies on heavy-weight paper or similar material. For administrative purposes, designate this **"FPL for approved NDA 21-511/SN 005."** Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

All applications for new active ingredients, new dosage forms, new indications, new routes of administration, and new dosing regimens are required to contain an assessment of the safety and effectiveness of the product in pediatric patients unless this requirement is waived or deferred. We are waiving the pediatric study requirement for this application.

We remind you of your postmarketing study commitment in your submission dated February 23, 2005. This commitment is listed below.

1. Conduct combination activity (e.g. additive, synergistic or antagonistic) studies of ribavirin with all remaining approved antiretroviral agents. In these studies use at least two different host cell-HIV-1 combination assay systems along with known controls for the combination effects.

   Timeframe for submission of final study report = On or before September 30, 2005

Submit clinical protocols to your IND for this product. Submit nonclinical and chemistry manufacturing, and controls protocols and all study final reports to this NDA. In addition, under 21 CFR 314.81(b) (2) (vii) and 314.81(b) (2) (viii), you should include a status summary of each commitment in your annual report to this NDA. The status summary should include expected summary completion and final report submission dates, any changes in plans since the last annual report, and, for clinical studies, number of patients entered into each study. All submissions, including supplements, relating to this postmarketing study commitment must be prominently labeled **"Postmarketing Study Protocol", Postmarketing Study Final Report", or Posmarketing Study Correspondence."**

In addition, submit three copies of the introductory promotional materials that you propose to use for this product. Submit all proposed materials in draft or mock-up form, not final print. Send one copy to the Division of Antiviral Drug Products and two copies of both the promotional materials and the package insert directly to:

Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising,
and Communications, HFD-42
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

We remind you that you must comply with reporting requirements for an approved NDA (21 CFR 314.80 and 314.81).

If you have any questions, call Kenny Shade, JD, BSN, Regulatory Project Manager, at (301)827-2335.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Debra Birnkrant, M.D.
Director
Division of Antiviral Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation IV
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

Enclosure :

This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically and this page is the manifestation of the electronic signature.

/s/

Debra Birnkrant
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NDA 21-511