DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Silver Spring MD 20993

BLA 125276/49

SUPPLEMENT APPROVAL

Genentech, A Member of the Roche Group
c/o Hoffman-La Roche, Inc.
340 Kingsland Street
Nutley, NJ 07110

Attention: Kristine L. Ogozalek
Program Director, Regulatory Affairs

Dear Ms. Ogozalek:

Please refer to your Supplemental Biologics License Application (sBLA), dated and received December 12, 2011, submitted under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act for Actemra (tocilizumab).

We acknowledge receipt of your amendments dated February 7, 14, and 15, April 13, July 3 and 26, August 9, 20, and 31, and September 4, 12, and 20, 2012, and your risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (REMS) assessment dated December 12, 2011.

This supplemental new drug application provides for the use of Actemra (tocilizumab) for the treatment of adult patients with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis who have had an inadequate response to one or more disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs), revisions to the HIGHLIGHTS and WARNINGS sections of the package insert regarding hypersensitivity reactions, and a proposed modification to the approved risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (REMS).

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

We are waiving the requirements of 21 CFR 201.57(d)(8) regarding the length of Highlights of prescribing information. This waiver applies to all future supplements containing revised labeling unless we notify you otherwise.

CONTENT OF LABELING

As soon as possible, but no later than 14 days from the date of this letter, submit, via the FDA automated drug registration and listing system (eLIST), the content of labeling [21 CFR 601.14(b)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format, as described at

http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StructuredProductLabeling/default.htm, that is identical to the enclosed labeling (text for the package insert, Medication Guide), and include the labeling changes proposed in any pending "Changes Being Effected" (CBE) supplements. Information on submitting SPL files using eLIST may be found in the guidance for industry titled "SPL Standard for Content of Labeling Technical Qs and As" at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM072392.pdf. For administrative purposes, please designate this submission "**Product Correspondence – Final SPL for approved BLA STN 125276/49.**

The SPL will be accessible via publicly available labeling repositories.

Also within 14 days, amend all pending supplemental applications for this BLA, including pending "Changes Being Effected" (CBE) supplements, for which FDA has not yet issued an action letter, with the content of labeling [21 CFR 601.12(f)] in MS Word format that includes the changes approved in this supplemental application.

We request that the labeling approved today be available on your website within 10 days of receipt of this letter.

REQUIRED PEDIATRIC ASSESSMENTS

Under the Pediatric Research Equity Act (PREA) (21 U.S.C. 355c), all applications for new active ingredients, new indications, new dosage forms, new dosing regimens, or new routes of administration are required to contain an assessment of the safety and effectiveness of the product for the claimed indication(s) in pediatric patients unless this requirement is waived, deferred, or inapplicable.

We are waiving the pediatric study requirement for ages 0 to < 2 years because necessary studies are impossible or highly impracticable. This is because juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) polyarticular subtype most often occurs in children ages ≥ 2 years and older and is infrequent in children ages 0 to < 2 years.

We are deferring submission of your pediatric study for ages >2 to < 17 years in patients with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. We note your submission dated (b) (4) is currently under review.

We remind you that there are postmarketing requirements listed in the January 8, 2010, approval that are still open.

RISK EVALUATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY REQUIREMENTS

The REMS for Actemra (tocilizumab) was originally approved on January 8, 2010, and last modified on June 20, 2012. The REMS consists of a communication plan and a timetable for submission of assessments of the REMS. Your proposed modification to the REMS consists of changes to the Dear Health Care Provider Letter, Prescriber Education Slide Deck, and Journal

Information Pieces for the professional journals of subspecialists likely to prescribe Actemra with the modified indication of rheumatoid arthritis patients who had an inadequate response to DMARDs and the addition of new safety data about hypersensitivity reactions, including anaphylaxis.

Your proposed modified REMS, submitted on September 20, 2012, and appended to this letter, is approved.

The timetable for submission of assessments of the REMS will remain the same as that approved on January 8, 2010.

There are no changes to the REMS assessment plan described in our June 20, 2012, letter.

The requirements for assessments of an approved REMS under section 505-1(g)(3) include, with respect to each goal included in the strategy, an assessment of the extent to which the approved strategy, including each element of the strategy, is meeting the goal or whether one or more such goals or such elements should be modified.

In addition to the assessments submitted according to the timetable included in the approved REMS, you must submit a REMS assessment and may propose a modification to the approved REMS when you submit a supplemental application for a new indication for use as described in section 505-1(g)(2)(A) of FDCA.

Prominently identify the submission containing the REMS assessments or proposed modifications of the REMS with the following wording in bold capital letters at the top of the first page of the submission, as appropriate:

BLA 125276 REMS ASSESSMENT

NEW SUPPLEMENT FOR BLA 125276
PROPOSED REMS MODIFICATION

NEW SUPPLEMENT (NEW INDICATION FOR USE)
FOR BLA 125276
REMS ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED REMS MODIFICATION (if included)

If you do not submit electronically, please send 5 copies of REMS-related submissions.

If the assessment instruments and methodology for your REMS assessments are not included in the REMS supporting document, or if you propose changes to the submitted assessment instruments or methodology, you should update the REMS supporting document to include specific assessment instrument and methodology information at least 90 days before the assessments will be conducted. Updates to the REMS supporting document may be included in a new document that references previous REMS supporting document submission(s) for unchanged portions. Alternatively, updates may be made by modifying the complete previous

REMS supporting document, with all changes marked and highlighted. Prominently identify the submission containing the assessment instruments and methodology with the following wording in bold capital letters at the top of the first page of the submission:

BLA 125276 REMS CORRESPONDENCE
(insert concise description of content in bold capital letters, e.g.,
UPDATE TO REMS SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

You may request advisory comments on proposed introductory advertising and promotional labeling. To do so, submit, in triplicate, a cover letter requesting advisory comments, the proposed materials in draft or mock-up form with annotated references, and the package insert(s) to:

Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Office of Prescription Drug Promotion
5901-B Ammendale Road
Beltsville, MD 20705-1266

As required under 21 CFR 601.12(f)(4), you must submit final promotional materials, and the package insert(s), at the time of initial dissemination or publication, accompanied by a Form FDA 2253. For instruction on completing the Form FDA 2253, see page 2 of the Form. For more information about submission of promotional materials to the Office of Prescription Drug Promotion (OPDP), see http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/CDER/ucm090142.htm.

All promotional materials for your drug product that include representations about your drug product must be promptly revised to make it consistent with the labeling changes approved in this supplement, including any new safety information [21 CFR 601.12(a)(4)]. The revisions to your promotional materials should include prominent disclosure of the important new safety information that appears in the revised package labeling. Within 7 days of receipt of this letter, submit your statement of intent to comply with 21 CFR 601.12(a)(4) to the address above or by fax to 301-847-8444.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

We remind you that you must comply with reporting requirements for an approved BLA (in 21 CFR 600.80 and in 21 CFR 600.81).

If you have any questions, call Philantha Montgomery Bowen, Sr. Regulatory Project Management Officer, at (301) 796-2466.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Sally Seymour, M.D.
Deputy Director for Safety
Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Rheumatology Products
Office of Drug Evaluation II
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

ENCLOSURES:
Content of Labeling
REMS

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

/s/

SALLY M SEYMOUR
10/11/2012