

May 28, 2020

Peter Maybarduk  
Access to Medicines Director  
Public Citizen  
1600 20th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C.  
20009

Dear Mr. Maybarduk

Thank you for your letter to Dr. Schwan. I'm pleased to reply on behalf of Roche and Genentech in the United States.

At our company, we prioritize the health and safety of our patients, employees and local communities. We are actively responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic through significant investments in clinical research, the production of diagnostic tests and therapeutics, and financial support for those in need.

We agree that we must come together across the health care delivery system to make sure that all citizens receive appropriate and affordable care. This has long been a focus of ours and we have been working in Washington to propose meaningful solutions that can lower patient and system costs, ensure broad access, and preserve an ecosystem of scientific innovation that continues to drive the important medical breakthroughs that patients depend upon.

We take decisions related to the prices of our medicines very seriously and our commitment to patient access and investment in future breakthroughs are reflected in our actions. This applies to the way we price new medicines and how we change the price of those medicines over time.

Over the past several years in the United States all of our new medicines were priced below others used to treat similar diseases. For example, we priced Ocrevus<sup>®</sup> (ocrelizumab), an innovative treatment for multiple sclerosis, at 25 percent less than the medicine it surpassed in clinical trials, and Hemlibra<sup>®</sup> (emicizumab-kxwh) at less than half the cost of the standard treatment for hemophilia A with inhibitors.

At times we do adjust the prices of our medicines, taking into consideration their value to patients and society; the investments required to continue discovering new treatments; and the need for broad access. Over the past several years our weighted average net price increase across our portfolio has been in line with medical inflation.

The revenue generated from our medicines allows Roche and Genentech to invest ~\$11 billion a year in research and development – more than any other health care company in the world. As a result, we have brought 14 innovative new medicines to patients in the last eight years and have been granted 33 FDA breakthrough therapy designations. We also continue to invest in significant and sustained research for each of our medicines post approval – one notable example being our current clinical investigation of Actemra<sup>®</sup> (tocilizumab) for hospitalized adult patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia.

We are acutely aware of the challenges people are facing across the country due to the pandemic and we are actively working with Congress and the Administration as well as our health care system partners to eliminate barriers and enable access. We also have a range of robust patient support programs in place to help people in need and we are continuing to evolve our services to provide flexibility and continuity of care during this challenging time. For example, if a patient's insurance or financial situation has changed due to the impact of COVID-19, they may qualify to receive their medicines for free through the Genentech Patient Foundation.

Please be assured that our priority is to ensure that patients receive the medicines they are prescribed and our actions will continue to reflect that commitment. In response to your specific question, I can also confirm that we do not have plans to increase the price of any of our medicines for the remainder of this year.

Sincerely,



Fritz Bittenbender  
Senior Vice President  
Access and External Affairs