



October 25, 2010

Kristina Becker  
Genentech  
1 DNA Way  
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Dear Ms. Becker:

In 2009, ATAC released its first "report card" evaluation of Genentech/Roche's strengths and weaknesses in several categories important to the HIV community. These include scientific innovation, community engagement, patient assistance and fair pricing.

We are pleased to take this opportunity to provide a brief "progress report" on Genentech's activities during the past year and keep you informed about ATAC's expectations for future improvements.

The membership of ATAC strongly believes that continued progress in the discovery and development of new HIV treatments is critical. Despite great strides made in the efficacy, tolerability, and convenience of antiretroviral therapy over the past few years, too many people with HIV have yet to begin treatment, and an increasing number of those who have begun are finding it difficult to sustain long term adherence. Better HIV medicines, with fewer side effects, greater durability, and more flexible modes of administration should be in development now, so that the next generation of HIV therapy will be ready to meet the need.

In light of the lifetime nature of antiretroviral treatment, ATAC applauds the resurgence of research into finding a "cure" for HIV infection. We urge Genentech to join this historic effort.

The financial burdens of lifetime therapy, for institutions and individuals alike, are increasing daily, with waiting lists for state ADAP programs now having surpassed the 3,000 patient mark. ATAC appreciates efforts to ameliorate this crisis, but finds the best efforts of the government and some companies falling short. We strongly urge Genentech and every company to find new and innovative ways to make HIV treatment accessible and affordable to all who need it.

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### **Genentech Performance Update**

The ATAC membership reported that, during the year since we issued our 2009 Report Card, Genentech has made significant efforts to improve access for those who cannot afford its medications. We urge Genentech to join the Welvista program for people who have been put on ADAP waiting lists. The ATAC membership also urges Genentech to engage in meaningful dialog with the HIV treatment activist community.

Here are the points singled out by ATAC's membership:

In the past year Genentech has taken several actions that we believe are in the best interests of people living with HIV, and for which we commend you. These include:

- Setting the most generous criteria in the industry for patient assistance eligibility

Though we appreciate that Genentech is devoting resources to the development of better and safer treatments for hepatitis C virus (HCV), Genentech also has either taken actions that are harmful to people with HIV, or failed to take action that might have benefited people with HIV. These include:

- terminating your HIV research program;
- failing to reach an agreement with the ADAP Crisis Task Force to preserve struggling ADAP programs.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. We strongly encourage you to engage in constructive dialog with the HIV community. We will be following up with a more comprehensive evaluation in our 2011 HIV Drug Company Report Card next year.

Sincerely,

AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition

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