The biopharma business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operates as EMD Serono in the U.S. and Canada.

# power of data

Zhaowen Luo and Elke Hofmann





## we are unique

Since our founding 350 years ago, we've become truly global with more than **52,000 employees in 66 countries** working on breakthrough solutions and technologies. Merck KGaA Darmstadt, Germany



We are known as "Merck" internationally except for the United States and Canada, where we operate as EMD Serono in the biopharmaceutical business, MilliporeSigma in the life science business, and EMD Performance Materials in the high-tech materials business.



## 350 Years of curiosity







€6.9bn

Net sales



Share of Group Net Sales

20,000

Employees



R&D spending



Full year 2017

#### More Info

## Development pipeline

#### Phase I

M2698 p70S6K & Akt inhibitor Solid tumors

M3814 DNA-PK inhibitor

Solid tumors

M9831 (VX-984) DNA-PK inhibitor Solid tumors

M6620 (VX-970) ATR inhibitor Solid tumors

M4344 (VX-803) ATR inhibitor Solid tumors

M3541 ATM inhibitor Solid tumors

M8891 MetAP2 inhibitor Solid tumors

M7583 BTK inhibitor Hematological malignancies avelumab anti-PD-L1 mAb

> Solid tumors avelumab anti-PD-L1 mAb Hematological malignancies

M9241 (NHS-IL12)<sup>2</sup> Cancer immunotherapy Solid tumors

M7824 anti-PD-L1/TGFbeta trap Solid tumors

M4112 Cancer immunotherapy Solid tumors

M1095 (ALX-0761)<sup>3</sup> anti-IL-17 A/F nanobody Psoriasis M6495 anti-ADAMTS-5 nanobody Osteoarthritis

M5717 PeEF2 inhibitor Malaria

<sup>1</sup> First-Line treatment; <sup>1M</sup> First-Line maintenance treatment.

<sup>2</sup> Sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (USA).

- <sup>3</sup> As announced on March 30, 2017, in an agreement with Avillion, anti-IL-17 A/F nanobody will be developed by Avillion for plaque psoriasis and commercialized by EMDSerono.
- <sup>4</sup> As announced on August 25, 2017, the European Commission has granted marketing authorization for cladribine tablets for the treatment of highly active relapsing multiple sclerosis in the 28 countries of the European Union in addition to Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland.

Pipeline products are under clinical investigation and have not been proven to be safe and effective. There is no guarantee any product will be approved in the sought-after indication.

#### Phase II

tepotinib c-Met kinase inhibitor Non-small cell lung cancer

tepotinib c-Met kinase inhibitor Hepatocellular cancer

avelumab - anti-PD-L1 mAb Merkel cell cancer 1L<sup>1</sup>

sprifermin fibroblast growth factor 18 Osteoarthritis

atacicept anti-Blys/anti-APRIL fusion protein Systemic lupus erythematosus

atacicept anti-Blys/anti-APRIL fusion protein IgA nephropathy

**abituzumab anti-CD51 mAb** Systemic sclerosis with interstitial lung disease

evobrutinib BTK inhibitor Rheumatoid arthritis

evobrutinib BTK inhibitor Systemic lupus erythematosus

evobrutinib BTK inhibitor Multiple sclerosis

#### Phase III

avelumab - anti-PD-L1 mAb Non-small cell lung cancer 1L<sup>1</sup>

avelumab - anti-PD-L1 mAb Gastric cancer 1L-M<sup>1M</sup>

avelumab - anti-PD-L1 mAb Ovarian cancer platinum resistant/refractory

**avelumab - anti-PD-L1 mAb** Ovarian cancer 1L<sup>1</sup>

avelumab - anti-PD-L1 mAb Urothelial cancer 1L-M<sup>1M</sup>

avelumab - anti-PD-L1 mAb Renal cell cancer 1L<sup>1</sup>

avelumab - anti-PD-L1 mAb Locally advanced head and neck cancer

#### Registration

cladribine tablets lymphocyte targeting agent Relapsing multiple sclerosis<sup>4</sup>



- Immuno-Oncology
- Immunology
- Neurology
- General Medicine



#### Research Informatics Who we are and what we do

Research Informatics is part of the R&D Organization within Healthcare > Prescription Drugs

#### High-level RI objectives

- Enable data driven decision making by providing state-of-the-art research knowledge management
- Manage research data from internal & external sources
  - data capture
  - processing and analysis
  - integration
  - visualization

#### our mission:

Enable project teams and R&D activities by providing state of the art scientific informatics solutions and bioinformatics project contributions



#### A brief History of SAR

1990s	2011	2016	2017	2018
<ul> <li>Pre-aggregated SAR values according to internal rules</li> <li>Available in Retrieval tool</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Evaluation and implementation of dedicated SAR tool besides the Retrieval tool</li> <li>SAR aggregation rules not hundred percent compatible with internal rules, but acceptable</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Different tools for Retrieval and SAR</li> <li>Both tools at the end of their life cycle</li> <li>Application survey <ul> <li>clearly pointed out dissatisfaction</li> <li>Request to reduce number of tools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Evaluation with emphasis on <ul> <li>Software quality</li> <li>Stability</li> <li>Compatibility of aggregation rules</li> </ul> </li> <li>Strongly driven by key users</li> <li>One solution for NCE drug discovery</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Implementation <ul> <li>Data layer</li> <li>Workspaces</li> <li>Forms and templates</li> <li>Visualizations</li> </ul> </li> <li>Rollout end of 2018</li> <li>2019 and beyond: extensions</li> </ul>
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Not optimal for SAR Analysis	<b>1st Generation of SAR Analysis</b>	Start of project "New Retrieval and SAR Tool"	<b>Decision for D360</b>	So far: Good acceptance, High satisfaction rate

#### The Project "New Retrieval and SAR Tool" for Small Molecules

#### **Main requirements**

- Seamless integration of Retrieval and SAR functionality in one application
- Global usage
- Good collaboration support (both internal and external)
- Potential to become an integrated Discovery Platform

#### **Pre-determined Timelines**

- Feb 2017 Market assessment to identify suitable candidates
- March 2017 Request for Proposal (RfP) Several vendors were contacted and asked for detailed information about their systems
- July 2017 In-House evaluation with the most promising candidates
- Dec 2017 Decision for one of the candidates
- Dec 2018 Rollout of the selected solution

### ın a nutshell

#### **The Project - In-House Evaluation**

#### Test cases

- Pre-defined test cases with different complexity
- Clustered in 7 categories

**Engaged cross-functional Test Team** 

#### **PoC for WebService integration**





Cluster of Test Cases

■ Ouery & Table View

■ Misc. (List, Filter, Sort, Operator) ■ Collaboration Aspects

■RGroup Decomp.

■ Visualization

Performance & Stability



#### **The Project - Decision**



#### **Based on**

- In-house evaluation
  - Extensive training of key users
  - Approval from key users
- PoC integration of WebService
  - Confirmed by computational chemists
- Advisory service from independent consulting company \*

\* specialized and acknowledged for business and competitive intelligence services on research information systems for major pharmaceutical companies

#### **The Project - Implementation**

#### **Implementation planned over 2 years**

- Phase 1 Laying the foundation
  - All Data needed to replace successor tools
  - Templates to cover different needs
  - Few WebServices
  - As much additional functionality as possible without endangering the timeline
  - Rollout in Dec 2018
- Phase 2 exploring possibilities
  - Compound Design
  - Flexible platform to integrate additional chemo-informatic services
  - Combination screening data
  - Calculation server

#### **Risk Analysis and Mitigation**

- Performance
  - Regularly check and optimization
  - Hypercare
- User Acceptance
  - Establish Key User Team to
    - Support introduction of D360, e.g. defining templates, giving input for training
    - ➤ Support other D360 user after roll-out
    - > Enable project teams to quickly ease into D360
  - Intensive training
- Unrealistic expectation \*
  - Involve Key User Team in planning of implementation phase 2 under consideration of cost/benefit ratio

#### \* Examples:

- One-stop solution - including self-serving docking, modelling



- Implementation of convenience features which are rarely used

#### **Data sharing and Transparency**

#### Maximum data sharing

- All queries/templates/forms available for everyone
  - Project workspaces set to share with everyone
  - Personal workspaces encouraged to share
- Dedicated projects/functions workspace for project teams
- Examples and common templates
  - Dedicated "Template" workspace
  - Training workspaces starting point for many users
- Annotations
  - Important feature to share knowledge inside project team

**Maximum data availability** 

- Data Layer contains
  - Compounds (NCE)
  - Assay results as well as in-silico ones
  - Workflow information assay requests
  - Logistics availability of compounds
  - Documents

guiding

principles

- Flexible data catalog in form of navigation tree
- Drill down to individual data point
- Virtual compounds design workflow incorporated
- Computational server and virtual assays



12

#### **Data Catalogue**

**Compound – three levels** 

- Entity
- Substance (Salt)
- Batch

Assay Data – categorized to facilitate navigation

- Classification of assays
- External suppliers
- HTS
- Super assays
- Raw result form building
- Documents









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Description

#### **Compound Design Workflow**

Most functions available in D360

- Registration of virtual compounds is done in a separate system
  - Structure, scientific project, ...
- D360 is used for Retrieval and SAR along real compounds
  - Pre-calculated
     PhysChem Properties
  - In silico assays
  - Status tracking
    - > Rating
    - > Synthesis Plan
    - > Availability as real compound

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#### Statistics A widely adopted platform

- $\sim$  185 active users
  - Very consistent daily usage (graph in the right)
- Over one third are frequent users (more than two or three times a week)
  - All medicinal chemists
  - Most computational chemists
  - Project teams
- > 1,300 templates created
  - Cover all NCE discovery projects
- > 15,000 annotations recorded



Login Time (Day of Month)

#### **One platform for everyone (in NCE drug Discovery)**

#### Chemists

- Data retrieval
- SAR analysis
- Hit and Lead Decisions

2

#### Designers

- Virtual compounds
- Property calculation
- Predictions

Maximum collaboration b360 connects the scientific community



#### **Biologists**

- Data availability and QA
- Data integrity
- Data accuracy and completion

Others: pre-clinical development

- Compound fact sheet
- Coverage of data

#### **Visibility of Data Details encourages Communication**

#### **Data Consumer – Medicinal Chemists**

- Simple data for quick decision
  - Efficient decision making among thousand compounds
  - SAR: one assay, one value
  - Always have numeric value coloring, sorting, visualization and comparison
- Ignore experimental errors
  - Ranking compounds in the error margin

#### **Data Producer - Biologists**

- Data accuracy
  - Numeric value not always available can't compare in many cases
  - Review curves
  - Experiment and result comments equally important as results
- Data quality
  - Repetition of experimental data
- 1. Drill-down: aggregated data with drill-down to single data points
- 2. Extrapolated data under certain conditions approved by screeners
- 3. Column orders summary data first, and detail/comments last or even hidden

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