Those making a difference deserve the best of what we have to give!: a message from Jean-Christophe Tellier, CEO of UCB

The world today is facing an unprecedented challenge as it fights against the COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis is having a profound impact on people across the world, putting pressure on our health care systems and disrupting our daily lives. In such difficult times, it is heartening to see the wave of solidarity coming from individuals, organizations and companies. At UCB we know that it is our responsibility to ensure the safety of our employees, to help and stand by the patients that are affected and to support the healthcare professionals who are working tirelessly to save lives and our communities that are doing their best to keep essential activities going. Now is the time, more than ever, to collaborate with all our partners in society for the greater good, with people at the heart of everything we do.

The world today is facing an unprecedented challenge as it fights against the COVID-19 pandemic. UCB is helping there where it can make a real impact for patients, people, and society.

None of this can be achieved without ensuring the safety of our 7,500 employees. Across the world, we are constantly assessing and implementing the best precautionary health and safety measures for our colleagues and their families. Thanks to our flexible work policy, our IT infrastructure and employee well-being support programs, our employees can either work from home or work safely in our production and research centers. We are ensuring that all of them continue to be compensated.

One of our key priorities is to make sure that patients who need our medicines get access to them regardless of the logistical challenges COVID-19 is bringing. By embracing new digital technology, and thanks to the tremendous dedication of our employees working in our production and research centers, we are confident that we can ensure the supply of products during this crisis. In countries where patients may need additional financial support to cover the cost of our medicines, our patient assistant programs have been extended to help them in these exceptional circumstances.

Backing our communities

As a biopharmaceutical company, we have expertise and resources that are essential during this pandemic and we feel that we have a social obligation to be there, present within our communities.

We are contributing to COVID-19 basic research and treatment development in collaboration with various researchers and governments. We are also working with government agencies and the healthcare community to determine if any of
our available or investigational therapies could be effectively used to help hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

We are offering our expertise and resources to increase local testing capabilities in countries where UCB has the required facilities. In Belgium we are part of a government-led initiative with the pharmaceutical industry and academia to accelerate the national response against COVID-19. We are performing COVID-19 tests at our facility in Braine l’Alleud to help with the upscaling of testing. And in the UK, our teams have delivered equipment to the UK government labs to accelerate screening.

We are helping - locally and globally - through donations and direct assistance to our partners. Here we have been active on many fronts and these are just a few of our initiatives. We started producing hydro-alcoholic solution in our major manufacturing sites and donated it to local healthcare authorities and hospitals in Belgium and Switzerland; we also donated protective materials to healthcare organizations in China, the United States and Belgium. As a pharmaceutical company we have healthcare professionals amongst our employees and we are supporting them if they wish to volunteer their expertise to local governments in the fight against COVID-19. Looking at society at large, we are concerned by the impact of this crisis on micro and small businesses, so we are shortening our payment terms with business partners. At UCB we also made EUR 1.5 million available to our local teams to support their communities where they see the highest need. Our team in Italy for example donated funds for the construction of the Fiera exhibition center’s COVID-19 pop-up intensive care hospital in Milan.

We are aware of the profound effect that the pandemic will have on the future of society. We are creating a global fund that aims to support researchers and organizations committed to better understanding and addressing the medium- and long-term impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations’ health. This fund, with an initial EUR 3 million contribution from UCB, will be open to UCB employees’ financial voluntary contribution, which will be matched by our company, as well as to voluntary contribution from shareholders and other UCB partners in society.

**Solid Q1 performance**

UCB’s financial performance in the first months of 2020 is very solid and holding up well at this time, in-line with our full year 2020 financial guidance as updated April 2nd on the occasion of the successful closing of our Ra Pharma acquisition. The updated financial guidance for 2020 does not reflect any potential impact from the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. We are of course
following developments diligently to assess any financial significance to our company.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to us if you are a UCB patient with questions or needing assistance, a healthcare professional seeking information or a partner or stakeholder (including shareholders) with further questions.

Never before have we collectively faced a pandemic such as COVID-19. We hope our actions, which are inspired by our patients and our people, and driven by our scientific knowledge, will contribute to the tremendous efforts so many people, government and organizations have been making to win the fight against this virus.

Stay safe!

Jean-Christophe Tellier
CEO of UCB

Forward looking statements UCB
This statement contains forward-looking statements based on current plans, estimates and beliefs of management. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, are statements that could be deemed forward-looking statements, including estimates of revenues, operating margins, capital expenditures, cash, other financial information, expected legal, political, regulatory or clinical results and other such estimates and results. By their nature, such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions which could delay, divert or change any of them this year and the next several years, that are difficult to predict, may be beyond UCB’s control and could cause UCB’s actual future financial results, goals, plans and objectives to differ materially from those that may be expressed in, or implied by, such forward-looking statements contained in this press release. Important factors that could result in such differences include: the global spread and impact of COVID-19, changes in general economic, business and competitive conditions, the inability to obtain necessary regulatory approvals or to obtain them on acceptable terms, costs associated with research and development, changes in the prospects for products in the pipeline or under development by UCB, effects of future judicial decisions or governmental investigations, product liability claims, challenges to patent protection for products or product candidates, changes in laws or regulations, exchange rate fluctuations, changes or uncertainties in tax laws or the administration of such laws and hiring and retention of its employees. Additionally, information contained in this document shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities, nor shall there be any offer, solicitation or sale of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to the registration or qualification under the securities laws of such jurisdiction. UCB is providing this information as of the date of this document and expressly disclaims any duty
to update any information contained in this press release, either to confirm the actual results or to report a change in its expectations.

There is no guarantee that new product candidates in the pipeline will progress to product approval or that new indications for existing products will be developed and approved. Products or potential products which are the subject of partnerships, joint ventures or licensing collaborations may be subject to differences between the partners. Also, UCB or others could discover safety, side effects or manufacturing problems with its products after they are marketed.

Moreover, sales may be impacted by international and domestic trends toward managed care and health care cost containment and the reimbursement policies imposed by third-party payers as well as legislation affecting biopharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement. The updated financial guidance for 2020 does not reflect any potential impacts from the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. The company is following the development diligently to assess the financial significance of this pandemic to UCB.