Johnson & Johnson is proud to announce that it is founding and co-leading the new CARE (Corona Accelerated R&D in Europe) consortium, Europe’s largest multi-partner scientific research initiative dedicated to discovering and developing urgently needed treatment options for COVID-19.

Esteemed Director General,

I hope you, your family and your colleagues are well during these challenging times. I am writing to provide an update on an important new development on behalf of the team at Johnson & Johnson.

Today, Johnson & Johnson is proud to announce that it is founding and co-leading the new CARE (Corona Accelerated R&D in Europe) consortium, Europe’s largest, multi-partner scientific research initiative dedicated to discovering and developing urgently needed treatment options for COVID-19. In this role, we are helping bring together Europe’s best and brightest scientific minds from 37 renowned academic institutions, research organizations and pharmaceutical companies, together with partners from the United States and China. As we have from the start, we are committed to partnering with you and others to end this global pandemic.

The current pandemic demonstrates just how serious certain coronaviruses have become as a public health concern. CARE will focus on three strategic pillars to achieve therapeutic breakthroughs against SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19 disease) and other coronavirus threats:

- Drug repositioning and repurposing
- Small molecule discovery
- Virus-neutralizing antibody discovery

"We are very excited to launch the CARE consortium and collaborate with other leading experts to urgently identify new medicines against SARS-COV-2 and other coronaviruses that may have the potential to cause epidemics."

- Marnix Van Loock, Senior Scientific Director and R&D Lead of Emerging Pathogens, Global Public Health, Janssen Pharmaceutica NV

The drug repositioning pillar builds on Johnson & Johnson's ongoing partnership with the prestigious [Institute], where a team of scientists are screening molecule libraries containing thousands of existing compounds to determine if they have potential as COVID-19 treatments. In addition to identifying therapeutics—or even a cure—for COVID-19, CARE aims to forge a deeper understanding of coronaviruses so that the world is better prepared to respond to future outbreaks.

CARE is supported by the Innovative Medicines Initiative, the world's largest public-private partnership in the life sciences, which is funded by the European Union and the private sector. Our co-leadership of CARE illustrates Johnson & Johnson's full-spectrum approach to the COVID-19 pandemic, which also includes the development of a candidate vaccine that recently entered human clinical studies, as well as comprehensive support for frontline health workers and health systems during the COVID-19 crisis.

Working in partnership with you and the CARE consortium, we will continue to leverage our scale and bring forth our full breadth of resources in an effort to deliver the best science on an equitable global basis to help end the pandemic.

We will continue to update you on important progress milestones in the fight against COVID-19 and please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on our team for more information.

Sincerely,