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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS BEGINS EXPLORATORY  
COLLABORATION WITH NOVARTIS INSTITUTES FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.**

CAMBRIDGE, MA, June 1, 2004 – Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc., today announced that the Company has initiated an exploratory research collaboration with Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Inc., the new Novartis global research headquarters in Cambridge, MA.

“We are looking forward to working with Novartis,” said Vincent F. Simmon, Ph.D., Chief Operating Officer of Merrimack. “We believe we can add value to Novartis’ drug development efforts with our Network Biology™ platform by providing new insights into signaling pathways that are involved in certain diseases, and how these pathways are altered by various drug therapies.”

Merrimack’s proprietary Network Biology™ aims to understand molecular targets in the context of their immediate protein networks. Network Biology™ overcomes the barriers of single target research where complex protein interactions—redundancies, feedback loops, and cross talk—often mask true functional relationships. Merrimack can then transform this information into predictive computational models of protein networks. Network Biology predicts the effect of factors such as network heterogeneity and redundancy upon successful therapeutic outcome. The result is highly validated targets, discovery of lead compounds that overcome network redundancy, and improved drug development efficiency.

Merrimack is focused on applying its Network Biology™ platform technologies to cell signaling networks implicated in cancer and autoimmune diseases. Merrimack has developed a commercial scale drug discovery platform, which combines high-throughput biology and computational modeling to develop more effective drugs, with safer drug profiles. Merrimack’s lead product, MM-093, has recently completed Phase I clinical trials.

*Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a biotechnology company focused on the discovery and development of novel treatments for diseases in the areas of autoimmune disease and cancer. Founded by leading scientists from MIT and Harvard, the company’s proprietary “Network Biology” discovery platform enables the high throughput profiling of protein networks as a basis for improved validation, lead identification and speed in the development of innovative, effective and safe therapeutics. Merrimack is a privately held company based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For additional information, please visit [www.merrimackpharma.com](http://www.merrimackpharma.com).*