



CONTACT: Julia Payne (617) 441-1000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS NAMES DR. BRIAN L. HAMILTON VICE
PRESIDENT OF CLINICAL AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS**

CAMBRIDGE, MA, July 20, 2004 – Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. today announced that Brian L. Hamilton, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the company as Vice President of Clinical and Regulatory Affairs. Dr. Hamilton will be an integral part of Merrimack's leadership team and will oversee all of the company's clinical development and regulatory activities. He also will work closely with Merrimack's management team to set and implement the clinical strategy for the company.

"I am extremely pleased that Brian has joined the Merrimack team," said Robert Mulroy, president and CEO of Merrimack. "With more than ten years of experience in conducting all phases of clinical development, Brian has a proven record of guiding successful products in the areas of immunology and oncology in large pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies."

Dr. Hamilton brings to Merrimack a unique background that combines both extensive experiences in academic research focused in immunology and its practical application in the pharmaceutical industry. He comes to Merrimack from Wyeth Research where, as Senior Director, he was the worldwide medical monitor and clinical team leader for multiple oncology products, including biologic agents. Prior to joining Wyeth, Dr. Hamilton was the medical monitor and clinical team leader for multiple Phase III studies in the area of asthma at Astra USA, Inc. Previously, Dr. Hamilton was the medical monitor at Alkermes, Inc., where he designed and implemented clinical programs for multiple drug delivery platforms in neuro-oncology, hematology, and asthma, among others. Dr. Hamilton has held several consulting positions in clinical and pre-clinical development, safety, regulatory, and strategic planning. Dr. Hamilton received his Ph.D. and M.D. at the University of Washington, and completed a fellowship in pediatric immunology at the Children's Hospital Medical Center and received additional training in pediatric oncology at the Sidney Farber Cancer Institute.

"I look forward to the opportunity to oversee the clinical development of Merrimack's products, and to guide the Company's regulatory efforts to create a truly robust product pipeline," said Dr. Hamilton. "Merrimack has a unique immunomodulatory lead compound and a technology that has the potential to create highly specific and targeted drugs in the areas of autoimmune disease and cancer. I am excited to be able to contribute to the development of such innovative therapeutics."

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. Its lead compound, MM-093, is currently in a pilot clinical study for patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Developed with the help of 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.