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MilliporeSigma announces the Licensing of Foundational CRISPR Technology to Cellecta, Paving Pathway for Development of Next-Generation Treatments

- **Fundamental genome-editing tool helps identify innovative treatments in cellular and genetic diseases**
- **Company's licensing enables researchers and scientists to advance treatments for inherited blood disorders, cancers and ophthalmological diseases, among others**
- **Cellecta's adoption of CRISPR-mediated knock-in technology provides inventive approaches to drug discovery.**

Burlington, Massachusetts, October 5, 2021 – MilliporeSigma, the U.S. and Canadian Life Science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, today announced that the Life Science business sector has signed an agreement licensing its patented CRISPR-Cas9 technology to [Cellecta, Inc.](#), a functional genomics products and services provider based in Mountain View, California, USA. Through the licensing of its innovative technology, the Life Science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is paving the path for researchers and scientists to identify and accelerate next generation treatments.

"We are committed to advancing research and drug discovery through the development of powerful, unique technologies," said Angela Myers, head of Gene Editing & Novel Modalities, at the Life Science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. "This licensing agreement is of paramount importance for researchers and scientists. Our CRISPR-based foundational integration technology is essential

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for many genome-editing applications and is used to identify future treatments in myriads of cellular and genetic diseases.”

Cellecta provides RNAi and CRISPR technologies for the discovery and characterization of novel therapeutic targets and genetic profiling for drug and biomarker discovery and validation, leading the way for developing highly effective next generational treatments. Cellecta plans to use the foundational [CRISPR patent estate](#) belonging to the Life Science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany to offer CRISPR-mediated targeted “knock-in,” a critical method which gives scientists more efficient options for complex projects in therapeutic and disease research.

“The technology enables us to provide a more comprehensive range of options for cell modification to our customers,” said Paul Diehl, chief operating officer of Cellecta. “More specifically, access to this technology allows us to conduct integrated knock-in which is a key component of our customer’s drug testing.”

For nearly two decades, the Life Science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany has been at the forefront of gene-editing innovation. The company continues to contribute to future drug development efforts by democratizing its patented CRISPR technology. Its experience in genome editing has led to one of the most comprehensive portfolios of CRISPR and other advanced genomics technologies impacting every step of drug development, from basic research to therapeutic delivery. The company uses its expertise to offer products and services for a range of applications, including gene knockout, targeted integration and mutagenesis, and genetic screening libraries to support research in fields such as cancer and infectious diseases.

The Life Science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany holds 40 CRISPR-related patents worldwide in methods and composition, including the CRISPR-Cas9 foundational technology for genetic integration in mammalian cells.

The growing potential of genome-editing technologies has led to scientific, legal, and societal concerns and therefore supports research with genome editing under careful consideration of ethical and legal standards. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany has established an independent, external [Bioethics Advisory Panel](#) to

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provide guidance for research in which its businesses are involved, including research on or using genome editing and has developed, defined and transparently published a clear [Genome-Editing Technology Principle](#) taking into account scientific and societal issues to inform promising therapeutic approaches for use in research applications.

The Life Science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is actively licensing its CRISPR technology for therapeutic and other uses and is seeking collaboration partners for research and product development.

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About the Life Science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

The Life Science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, which operates as MilliporeSigma in the U.S. and Canada, has more than 23,000 employees and 59 manufacturing sites worldwide, with a portfolio of more than 300,000 products focused on scientific discovery, biomanufacturing and testing services.

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, operates across healthcare, life science and electronics.

Around 58,000 employees work to make a positive difference to millions of people's lives every day by creating more joyful and sustainable ways to live. From advancing gene-editing technologies and discovering unique ways to treat the most challenging diseases to enabling the intelligence of devices – the company is everywhere. In 2020, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany generated sales of € 17.5 billion in 66 countries.

The company holds the global rights to the name and trademark "Merck" internationally. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as EMD Serono in healthcare, MilliporeSigma in life science, and EMD Electronics. Since its founding 1668, scientific exploration and responsible entrepreneurship have been key to the company's technological and scientific advances. To this day, the founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed company. For more information about Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, visit www.emdgroup.com.