



CONTACT: Julia Dishman (617) 441-1000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS NAMES DR. VINCENT F. SIMMON AS
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

CAMBRIDGE, MA, February 4, 2004 – Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biotechnology company focused on developing therapeutics in immunology and oncology, today announced that Vincent F. Simmon, Ph.D., has joined the company as Chief Operating Officer. Dr. Simmon will be an integral part of Merrimack's executive management team and will oversee the commercialization of Merrimack's clinical product candidates and the continued development of the Company's leading Network Biology™ based discovery platform.

Dr. Simmon brings to Merrimack over 25 years of experience growing companies and developing products in the biotechnology industry. Over the course of his career, Dr. Simmon has held chief executive and top management positions with several public and private companies and has demonstrated a proven ability to effectively manage the development and commercialization of novel biotechnology products and the rapid growth of organizations

"We are extremely pleased to add Dr. Simmon to our management team as we continue to build the foundation for growth," said Robert Mulroy, President and CEO of Merrimack. "Vince possesses a vast set of experiences and expertise that will be a great advantage to Merrimack as we continue to advance the development of MM-093 and the other candidate drugs discovered through our Network Biology™ efforts."

Most recently, Dr. Simmon served as the President and CEO of Cortex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. At Cortex, Dr. Simmon was responsible for initiating six Phase II clinical trials, obtaining federal, private and corporate funding for pre-clinical and clinical research, and entering 3 corporate collaborations. Prior to Cortex, Dr. Simmon served as CEO of Prototek, Inc., Alpha 1 Biomedicals, Inc., and Viral Technologies, Inc. He has also served as Vice President of Research and Development at W.R. Grace & Co. and Genex Corp. Dr. Simmon received his B.A. in Biology and Chemistry from Amherst College and his M.S. in Plant Physiology from the University of Toledo. He earned his Ph.D. in Molecular and Microbiology from Brown University.

"I am excited to be joining Merrimack at such an important stage of its development," said Dr. Simmon. "The Company is poised for growth based on a pipeline of potential breakthrough products and a revolutionary discovery platform."



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.