

THE SHAREHOLDERS' PERSPECTIVE



Dear Reader,

2020 will go down in history as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic that cost more than two million people their lives, destroyed livelihoods, and put our society to a severe test. In light of this global challenge, the pharmaceutical industry has expanded its research into COVID-19 at an unprecedented pace. After all, despite comprehensive and diverse measures to protect life and health, it is the means of pharmacy that can be used to combat and end the pandemic.

Until recently, it would have taken more than ten years from the identification of a virus to the approval of a vaccine against it. The fact that vaccines and therapies have now been developed and made market-ready within months was only made possible by the close cooperation between pharmaceutical companies, academia, and public authorities. Policymakers are responsible for creating conditions that make such innovations possible, and the importance of an innovation-friendly environment for society as a whole has never been clearer than during this pandemic.

With our company vision of “Creating value through innovation”, we affirm our commitment to excellence in science. This applies not only to the fight against COVID-19, but also to diseases for which no effective treatment options are available yet. To continue to be able to pursue these objectives in the future, we want to remain what makes Boehringer Ingelheim so unique – an independent and economically strong family-owned company of global importance.

We would like to express special appreciation to our employees. In an often difficult personal and professional environment, they have protected and supported one another by showing extraordinary commitment and great solidarity, thus maintaining the global supply of medicines that humans and animals so desperately need. Even during lockdowns, our employees continued to do their research and develop new therapies, not least to combat COVID-19. We would like to thank all of them for their outstanding commitment.

signed by
Christian Boehringer
Chairman of the Shareholders' Committee