

19 February 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

**LEADING RESEARCH SCIENTISTS IN THE UK WELCOME AND SUPPORT THE PROPOSED
MSD DISCOVERY RESEARCH CENTRE IN KING'S CROSS**

The critical importance of the life sciences industry in our world today is clearly demonstrated in the fight against Covid-19, where scientific innovation and partnership is fueling collective efforts to save and improve lives globally, in this pandemic and beyond.

We are therefore writing to voice our support for a new, purpose-built, state-of-the-art discovery research centre for biopharmaceutical company MSD in King's Cross.

Subject only to planning permission from Camden Council this month, an application by Precis Advisory to replace a self-storage building directly opposite King's Cross Station would see the development of a UK headquarters and discovery research centre for MSD. This discovery research centre would focus on early research into diseases of ageing and human biology, with the aim of discovering new treatments in a challenging area, aligned with MSD's vision to save and improve lives.

This much needed laboratory and office space would accommodate approximately 150 discovery scientists, plus more than 700 office staff in clinical and support functions, in an area that has long been a centre for innovation and progressive change. Home to one of the highest densities of knowledge based, cultural and scientific businesses anywhere in the world, this project would further strengthen and enhance London's role as a globally leading research hub.

We also welcome MSD's plans to reach into the local community, to increase the interest and opportunities of local school children in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects and careers, so that future generations can benefit from, and contribute towards, continued innovation.

Yours faithfully,



Neelam Patel, CEO, MedCity



Professor Fiona M. Watt, Executive Chair, Medical Research Council



Professor Peter McNaughton FMedSci, Professor of Pharmacology, King's College London



Jeremy Farrar Director, Wellcome Trust



Sir Paul Nurse, Director, Crick Institute



Dr Ken Larkin, Chief Executive, London BioScience Innovation Centre