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December 18, 2014

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers  
Attn: Mr. Akram Atallah  
President, Global Domains Division  
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094  
USA

Dear Akram,

Thank you for your letter of 11 December concerning the fact that you are considering invoking paragraph 3 of Module 6 of the AGB to not proceed with either application for .MERCK, in particular, given the likelihood that ICANN will need to expend additional fees and resources in dealing with the Independent Review Process initiated by Merck KGaA against ICANN. We are fully aware of this provision.

With regard to the issue of .MERCK and our application, we were willing to go to auction for .MERCK but we also remain, as we always have been, willing to try to find a collaborative solution with Merck KGaA.

We do have one additional question, what is the current status of our .MERCKMSD application?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Rashi Rai", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rashi Rai