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**Lymphoma Research Foundation Statement on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Approval of Ibrutinib (Imbruvica®) as Front-Line Treatment of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia**

**New York, NY** – On March 4, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced it has approved the use of ibrutinib (Imbruvica®), an approval which represents the first chemotherapy-free treatment option for first-line chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) patients, regardless of their treatment history. The FDA also approved ibrutinib for use in treating high-risk CLL patients with del 17p,1 a genetic aberration that occurs when part of chromosome 17, the location of the tumor suppressor gene p53, has been lost or deleted.

“Today’s approval marks a pivotal moment for CLL patients and their loved ones,” said Meghan Gutierrez, Chief Executive Officer of the Lymphoma Research Foundation. “The Lymphoma Research Foundation is proud of the role that we have been able to play in the advancement of CLL treatment and care, and we look forward to an increasing number of treatment options for people with lymphoma and CLL in the future.”

In addition to its newly sanctioned uses in the treatment of CLL, ibrutinib is approved to treat mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) patients who have received at least one prior therapy and patients with Waldenström's macroglobulinemia.

For additional information on the approval of ibrutinib, visit [http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/applletter/2016/205552Orig1s007ltr.pdf](http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/applletter/2016/205552Orig1s007ltr.pdf)

For additional information and statistics on chronic lymphocytic leukemia, visit [lymphoma.org](http://lymphoma.org) and [focusncll.org](http://focusncll.org).

**About the Lymphoma Research Foundation**

The Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF) is the nation’s largest non-profit organization devoted to funding innovative research and serving the lymphoma community through a comprehensive series of education programs, outreach initiatives and patient services. To date, LRF has awarded more than \$57 million in lymphoma-specific research. For additional information on LRF’s research, education and services, visit [lymphoma.org](http://lymphoma.org).

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