American Heart Association (AHA) Scientific Sessions 2015:

**Latest Clinical Data of Vericiguat To Be Presented at Late-Breaking-Clinical-Trial Session at AHA**

SOCRATES-REDUCED Phase IIb study results of vericiguat in patients with worsening chronic heart failure and reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF)

**Berlin, November 6, 2015** – Latest clinical data on investigational, oral sGC (soluble guanylate cyclase)-stimulator vericiguat (BAY 1021189) being co-developed by Bayer and MSD, known as Merck in the U.S. and Canada, will be presented at the American Heart Association (AHA) Scientific Sessions taking place from 7-11 November 2015 in Orlando, Florida, U.S.A.. The data are results of the exploratory Phase IIb SOCRATES-REDUCED study, which investigated the effects of different dosages of vericiguat when added to standard therapy in patients with worsening chronic heart failure and reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF). Vericiguat is the first sGC-stimulator being evaluated in clinical Phase II as potential treatment for heart failure. Vericiguat is part of the worldwide strategic collaboration with the U.S.-based company MSD (through a subsidiary) in the field of soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) modulation.

Presentation on development candidate vericiguat at AHA 2015:

*Oral sGC stimulator Vericiguat in patients with worsening chronic heart failure and reduced ejection fraction - The SOLuble guanylate Cyclase stimulatoR in heArT failurE patientS with REDUCED EF (SOCRATES-REDUCED) Study – Mihai Gheorghiade (Chicago, U.S.A.)*

- Session LBCT.01 – Failure Is Not an Option: New Drugs and Systems of Care
- Sunday, November 8, 2015: 4:13 PM-4:22 PM – Orange County Convention Center, Hall D
About Vericiguat
Vericiguat (BAY 1021189) is an investigational, oral stimulator of the soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) enzyme. While sGC is important for the function of both the blood vessels and the heart, it is insufficiently stimulated in heart failure patients due to impaired nitric oxide (NO) availability and endothelial dysfunction. The sGC pathway may offer an innovative therapeutic target option for the potential treatment of heart failure with vericiguat as the first sGC-stimulator under development for this indication. The Phase II SOCRATES-REDUCED trial evaluated the tolerability and dosing of vericiguat in patients with worsening chronic heart failure and reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) already on standard of care therapy.

Since October 2014, the worldwide strategic collaboration with the U.S.-based company MSD (known as Merck in the U.S. and Canada) in the field of sGC modulators brings together the two leading companies in this field, who both have the stated intent to make full use of this promising novel class of compounds and the potential it may hold for the benefit of patients.

About Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction (HFrEF)
Heart failure has a high prevalence and shows a growing incidence primarily due to a reduction in mortality from myocardial infarction and an ageing population. Globally, over 26 million people suffer from heart failure. Of these, approximately half are estimated to have heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF), formerly known as systolic heart failure. HFrEF is characterized by the compromised ability of the heart to eject oxygen rich blood sufficiently during its contraction phase. HFrEF represents the common final stage for many cardiovascular diseases, including coronary artery disease. Current pharmacological therapies for HFrEF include those that target the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone (RAAS) and the β-adrenergic sympathetic nervous system, since these therapies have been shown to improve outcomes in patients with HFrEF.

About Cardiology at Bayer
Bayer is committed to delivering Science For A Better Life by advancing a portfolio of innovative treatments in the areas of cardiovascular, lung and kidney diseases. The cardiology franchise at Bayer already includes a number of marketed products and several other compounds in various stages of preclinical and clinical development. These products stand for Bayer’s commitment to research and advancing science by focusing
on targets and pathways with the potential to positively impact the way that cardiovascular
diseases are treated.

About Bayer HealthCare
The Bayer Group is a global enterprise with core competencies in the fields of health care
and agriculture. Bayer HealthCare, a subgroup of Bayer AG with annual sales of around
EUR 20.0 billion (2014), is one of the world’s leading, innovative companies in the
healthcare and medical products industry and is based in Leverkusen, Germany. The
company combines the global activities of the Animal Health, Consumer Care, Medical
Care and Pharmaceuticals divisions. Bayer HealthCare’s aim is to discover, develop,
manufacture and market products that will improve human and animal health worldwide.
Bayer HealthCare has a global workforce of 60,700 employees (Dec 31, 2014) and is
represented in more than 100 countries. More information is available at

Our online press service is just a click away: press.healthcare.bayer.com
Follow us on facebook: www.facebook.com/healthcare.bayer
Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/BayerHealthCare

Contact:
Dr. Julia Schulze, Tel. +49 30 468-193636
E-Mail: julia.schulze@bayer.com

Find more information at www.pharma.bayer.com.

jds (2015-0389E)

Forward-Looking Statements
This release may contain forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by Bayer
Group or subgroup management. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to
material differences between the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company
and the estimates given here. These factors include those discussed in Bayer’s public reports which are available on
the Bayer website at www.bayer.com. The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking
statements or to conform them to future events or developments.