



For Immediate Release

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### **Breakthrough Treatment for Atrial Fibrillation Discovered at MMRL Completes Phase 2 Clinical Trial**

**San Francisco, CA and Utica, NY, May 10, 2014** – Gilead Sciences, Inc. (Nasdaq: GILD) announced results of their HARMONY Phase 2 Clinical Trial investigating the results of ranolazine and low dose dronedarone to combat atrial fibrillation (AF). The initial research that prompted this clinical trial was conducted at the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) based in Utica, NY and was published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* in 2010. The Phase 2 clinical trial was double blind, meaning that neither the patient nor the medical practitioner knew who was taking the placebo and who was taking the medication. Results of the clinical trial showed that those taking the drug combination had far fewer episodes of atrial fibrillation than those taking the placebo or either drug alone. Phase 3 clinical trials are expected to begin later this year.

Dr. Charles Antzelevitch, Executive Director and Director of Research of the MMRL, states that “safe and effective treatment for atrial fibrillation is one of the greatest unmet medical needs facing our society today.” Over 2.7 million Americans suffer from atrial fibrillation, a fluttering of the upper chambers of the heart, and although treatments are available, most have serious side effects that limit their use in many conditions. One in ten people are expected to develop atrial fibrillation as they approach age 80 and as medical innovation increases life expectancy, a significantly greater number of Americans will be at risk.

This discovery and the promising Phase 2 trial results provide hope for millions of Americans who suffer from AF. Central New York Cardiology and the Mohawk Valley Heart Institute participated in the Phase 2 trial and expect to participate in the Phase 3 clinical trial.

When the heart is in atrial fibrillation, stagnation of blood in the atria can cause blood clots that can travel to the brain and cause an ischemic stroke. Over 25% of strokes in the United States are attributable to atrial fibrillation. For this reason, it is important for patients with AF to use blood thinners such as warfarin or other newer anticoagulants.

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is a not-for-profit institute dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all. The institute’s primary mission is to conduct high quality basic and clinical research aimed at generating knowledge and information necessary for development of the medical cures and treatments of tomorrow. The Laboratory is also committed to providing education and training to basic scientists, clinical researchers and students who will perpetuate and extend the fight against disease. Please visit [www.mmrl.edu](http://www.mmrl.edu) to learn more about research at the MMRL or search for the MMRL on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, YouTube and LinkedIn.

