

Congratulations on becoming selected for the second round of interviews for Director of Clinical Trials on an exciting new project at Merck & Company.

We appreciate your continued interest in a position in the Division of Clinical Development at Merck Pharmaceuticals. As a member of this team, you will be part of an exciting effort to determine the effectiveness of a new antidepressant medication. At Merck, we are fully committed to improving health through the ethical and safe development of new medications. As covered in your initial interview, the answers you give in this process are confidential. You are also bound by the non-disclosure agreement you signed during the initial interview process. Please answer all of the questions to your best ability. We look forward to seeing you during the final interview process.



Michael Turner

Vice-President for Operations
Division of Clinical Development

Applicant name:

Application date:

Position: Director of Clinical Trials

Salary range: \$105,000-130,000 (plus benefits)

Please check if you would not wish your answers to be used to assess learning outcomes



Ethics

At Merck, ethics are our first priority. We are looking for scientists, managers, administrators, and workers who share this priority.

Give your thoughts, in a paragraph, on the important factors to consider when designing an *ethical* study in order to test a new drug.

Ethics

Think of a situation in which you have had to think about ethics in research design. What did you learn from the experience?



Study Design

We are currently about to start a Phase 3 human clinical trial in order to test the effectiveness of our newly developed antidepressant, *Serenique* (elevexor).

As Director of Clinical trials, you will work with your team to design and oversee the research studies for this exciting new depression treatment. Describe, in general, how you will go about this. Please give specific information on important research methodology considerations for this study.



Study Design

You are in the second round of interviews because of your research methodology experience.

Describe a time in the past when you have conducted your own research. What problems did you encounter and what did you learn?

Study Design

Explain in what ways science may be limited for studies testing the effectiveness of antidepressant medications.



The Merck Team

Though you are applying to be a member of the Division of Clinical Development, members of this division often work with members of the Division of Marketing and Advertising. Merck & Co., Inc. expects *Serenique* (elevexor) will compete with the antidepressant *Pristiq* (desvenlafaxine) made by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. We would like you to review their television and internet advertisements for this product prior to answering the following questions. (Trademark requirements prohibit us from providing links to their advertisements.)

Please identify any claims of fact made for *Pristiq* and the basis AND the validity of those claims.

ALSO please provide additional explanations for why their claims of effectiveness might not be true or why the claims may be questionable. Your answer may continue on the next page.



Merck & Co., Inc.
Division of Clinical Development

The Merck Team *(continued)*



Other information

In this section please supply us with any information you feel may help us with your application. For example, you may describe what you feel you have learned about research methodology in your course work or in other activities. You may also tell us how understanding research is important for everyday life. We would also like to know how you feel our consumers may or may not understand research and how that affects how we develop and market our life improving pharmaceuticals.