

bluebird bio, Inc.
455 Grand Union Boulevard
Somerville, MA 02145

May 17, 2023

Via EDGAR

Securities and Exchange Commission
Division of Corporation Finance
Office of Finance
100 F Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20549

Re: **bluebird bio, Inc.**
Registration Statement on Form S-3
Filed May 9, 2023
File No. 333-271772

To whom it may concern:

Pursuant to Rule 461(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, bluebird bio, Inc. (the "**Company**") hereby respectfully requests that the effective date of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-271772) be accelerated by the Securities and Exchange Commission to 4:00 p.m. Washington D.C. time on May 19, 2023 or as soon as practicable thereafter.

* * * *

The Company requests that we be notified of such effectiveness by a telephone call to Wesley C. Holmes of Latham & Watkins LLP at (617) 948-6027 and that such effectiveness also be confirmed in writing.

Very truly yours,

bluebird bio, Inc.

By: /s/ Joseph Vittiglio

Joseph Vittiglio

Chief Business and Legal Officer

cc: Wesley C. Holmes, Latham & Watkins LLP