

Merck's Commitment to Global Health

Merck & Co., Inc.* is a global research-driven pharmaceutical company dedicated to putting patients first. Established in 1891, Merck discovers, develops, manufactures and markets vaccines and medicines to address unmet medical needs.

While research and development are fundamental to our business success, we know it is also critically important to help make our medicines and vaccines available to those who need them. This is particularly true in the developing world, where access to medicines is often limited by inadequate health care infrastructure, lack of expertise and insufficient political will.

Throughout its history, Merck has devoted considerable effort to bringing our medicines and vaccines, expertise and experience to people around the world. We are doing this in three ways:

- By discovering, developing and delivering breakthrough medicines and vaccines to treat and prevent serious diseases;
- By working to develop long-term business models that enable us to make available the products and services we provide to as many people as possible; and
- By building partnerships across sectors to address specific health and development challenges around the world.

No government, company or organization alone can solve the immense public health problems the world faces globally. Sustainable solutions must come from comprehensive approaches that draw on the complementary expertise of all involved – government, the private sector, foundations, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community groups and others.

We believe that good health is everyone's business. Improving global health is one of the single most important contributions we can make to economic development around the world – and one from which all can benefit.



Photo: Tom Maday © 2005

“How can we bring the best of medicine to each and every person? We cannot rest until the way has been found with our help to bring our finest achievements to everyone.”

George W. Merck



* Merck & Co., Inc. (Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA) operates as Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) in most countries outside the United States.

Programs and Partnerships: Toward Better Global Health

Merck supports initiatives to improve access to medicines and vaccines in the United States and around the world. Our efforts to address health care challenges go beyond research and development of novel treatments to seek out and support initiatives that foster disease education, prevention and treatment and promote sustainable access to medicines, vaccines and quality health care. Examples of programs and partnerships supported by Merck and The Merck Company Foundation include:

■ ***The African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP)***

A partnership among the Government of Botswana, Merck and The Merck Company Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support and enhance Botswana's national response to HIV/AIDS through a comprehensive approach to prevention, care, treatment and support.

■ ***China-MSD HIV/AIDS Partnership***

A public-private partnership with China's Ministry of Health to provide HIV/AIDS prevention, patient care, treatment and support. Announced in May 2005, the project will focus on a range of interventions including: education, counseling, testing, harm reduction and health services, including treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS.

■ ***Disaster Relief***

When it is appropriate to do so, Merck, through its Office of Contributions, provides disaster relief as part of its philanthropic outreach. Our relief efforts often include donations of medicines working through established channels and with trusted partners. In 2006, Merck donated more than \$2.7 million in medicines, vaccines and direct financial contributions in support of relief activities following the Indonesian earthquake, to aid recovery efforts after the Lebanon-Israel conflict, and for typhoon relief in the Philippines.

■ ***Merck Childhood Asthma Network, Inc. (MCAN)***

A nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, the Merck Childhood Asthma Network (MCAN) was established in 2005 to address the complex and growing problem of pediatric asthma. Funded by The Merck Company Foundation, MCAN works to support and advance evidence-based programs that improve the quality of life for children with asthma and their families and to identify effective interventions to reduce the burden of this disease.

■ ***The Merck Mectizan Donation Program***

The year 2007 marks the 20th anniversary of the Mectizan Donation Program (MDP), the longest ongoing disease-specific drug donation program and public-private partnership in history. In 1987, Merck committed to donate its drug MECTIZAN® (ivermectin) for the treatment of onchocerciasis (river blindness) to all who need it for as long as necessary until the disease is eliminated as a public health problem. In 1998, Merck expanded its commitment to include the elimination of lymphatic filariasis (LF) in African countries and Yemen where LF co-exists with river blindness. The program currently approves

more than 100 million treatments each year and continues to grow annually.

■ ***The Merck Medical Outreach Program (MMOP)***

Through the MMOP, Merck donates pharmaceuticals and vaccines to select, qualified, US-based, private voluntary organizations (PVOs) for use in the developing world and in support of major disaster relief and emergency situations worldwide. In 2006, Merck donated nearly \$442 million in pharmaceuticals and vaccines through the program.

■ ***The Merck Vaccine Network - Africa (MVN-A)***

Launched in 2003, MVN-A is a multi-year initiative to help increase the capacity of immunization programs to deliver vaccines effectively in Kenya and Mali through training of national and regional health care workers in vaccine management and immunization services.

■ ***Nursing Libraries for Refugee Health***

Launched in February 2006, the Nursing Libraries for Refugee Health is a collaboration of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Merck to provide current health care information and training to nurses and health workers serving refugee populations in Africa. This program builds upon the work of the ICN-Merck Mobile Library project, which launched in 2001 as a partnership of ICN, Merck, and Elsevier, the world's largest publisher of nursing titles. To date, the Mobile Libraries have reached thousands of people in more than 300 clinical settings in 15 countries.

■ ***Romania-Merck partnership***

Merck has worked with the Romanian government since 1997 to increase access to treatment and care for thousands of its children and adults living with HIV/AIDS. In support of the government's national AIDS strategy, Merck has contributed \$1.5 million toward projects to improve HIV/AIDS infrastructure, helping to raise the standard of care for patients. Merck also provides its HIV/AIDS medicines to Romania at discounted prices.

■ ***US Patient Assistance Program***

Merck established the Merck Patient Assistance Program 50 years ago, making it one of the first such programs in the industry. Today, hundreds of thousands of patients in the United States without prescription drug coverage receive free medicines through this program each year. The program has a simple enrollment process and offers free delivery of medicines for qualified applicants to their home or doctor's office.

More information on these and other programs supported by Merck & Co., Inc., The Merck Company Foundation or the Office of Contributions can be found at www.merck.com/cr