



Statement

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Merck Statement on PhRMA Principles on Conduct of Clinical Trials and Communication of Clinical Trial Results

Revised Clinical Trial Principles Build On Merck's Ongoing Transparency Initiative

WHITEHOUSE STATION, N.J., April 20, 2009 – The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) announced that its Executive Committee adopted measures to enhance the PhRMA *Principles on Conduct of Clinical Trials and Communication of Clinical Trial Results* (Clinical Trial Principles) and Merck today issued the following statement:

"Merck supports the revised Clinical Trial Principles as finalized by the PhRMA Board," said Richard T. Clark, former PhRMA Chairman and Chairman, CEO, and President, Merck & Co., Inc. "These efforts are addressing significant patient access and safety issues."

The effective date of the revised PhRMA principles is Oct. 1, 2009. In the coming months, Merck will be conducting a comprehensive assessment of the revised principles to determine any necessary updates to our clinical processes and practices to ensure the company is compliant.

Merck's current policy is to register, at the time of trial initiation, all clinical trials in patients in which treatment is assigned that we sponsor and conduct worldwide. As we have for years, Merck remains committed to disclosing results from registered trials of marketed products, regardless of outcome, on ClinicalStudyResults.org, and as of October 2008 at ClinicalTrials.gov.

While many of the updates to the Clinical Trial Principles will not require changes to Merck's current practices, some aspects of the Principles will require Merck to update its current clinical trial policy. For example, the revised Clinical Trial Principles require a new commitment to disclose the results of discontinued investigational programs within 12 months of discontinuation.

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About the Merck Transparency Initiative

Merck is committed to industry-leading standards of transparency. Our Transparency Initiative includes a number of significant steps that we have already implemented and that we will be implementing in the coming months. This initiative is intended to respond to stakeholder feedback and public interest in various aspects of our business, and includes efforts to increase transparency in all major aspects of our operations, from research to sales and marketing practices. Key aspects of our Transparency Initiative include:

- **Grants:** Last October, Merck began reporting grants of \$500 or more provided by the Company's Global Human Health division to U.S. organizations in support of independent, accredited educational programs for health care professionals. This year, we are expanding our disclosures to include other grants we make to medical, scientific, and patient organizations including grants made by The Merck Company Foundation and the Merck Office of Corporate Contributions.
- **Relationships with physicians:** Merck has previously endorsed legislation offered by Senators Grassley (R-IA) and Kohl (D-WI) requiring disclosure of these financial relationships and is currently working with the bill sponsors on their most recent version of the legislation. Even in the absence of a federal legislative requirement, however, we are committed to begin disclosure in 2009 of payments to physicians who speak on behalf of our company or our products.
- **Clinical trials registration and disclosure:** Merck's policy is to register at the trial initiation all clinical trials in patients that we sponsor and conduct worldwide. As we have for years, Merck also remains committed to disclosing results from registered trials of marketed products, regardless of outcome, on ClinicalStudyResults.org, and as of October 2008, at ClinicalTrials.gov.
- **Corporate Responsibility Report:** In October 2008, Merck published our new Corporate Responsibility Report (CSR) which contains extensive metrics regarding the company's corporate responsibility performance and future commitments to enhanced transparency. The report includes, for example, data regarding our annual political contributions, environmental performance and results of our efforts to enhance access to our medicines and vaccines in the developing world. To read our CSR report visit: www.merck.com/corporate-responsibility/cr-print-report.html

- **DTC Advertising:** Merck also has taken actions on our marketing, such as adopting a policy requiring a minimum six-month time period following the approval of a new product before launching direct-to-consumer broadcast advertising – formalizing our longstanding practice of informing health care professionals about our products before advertising them to consumers.

For more information about Merck's Transparency Initiative visit:
www.merck.com/corporate-responsibility.

About Merck

Merck & Co., Inc. is a global research-driven pharmaceutical company dedicated to putting patients first. Established in 1891, Merck currently discovers, develops, manufactures and markets vaccines and medicines to address unmet medical needs. The Company devotes extensive efforts to increase access to medicines through far-reaching programs that not only donate Merck medicines but help deliver them to the people who need them. Merck also publishes unbiased health information as a not-for-profit service. For more information, visit www.merck.com.

Forward-Looking Statement

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on management's current expectations and involve risks and uncertainties, which may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in the statements. The forward-looking statements may include statements regarding product development, product potential or financial performance. No forward-looking statement can be guaranteed and actual results may differ materially from those projected. Merck undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. Forward-looking statements in this press release should be evaluated together with the many uncertainties that affect Merck's business, particularly those mentioned in the risk factors and cautionary statements in Item 1A of Merck's Form 10-K for the year ended Dec. 31, 2008, and in any risk factors or cautionary statements contained in the Company's periodic reports on Form 10-Q or current reports on Form 8-K, which the Company incorporates by reference.

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