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**Merck & Co., Inc. Statement On the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
Company Continues to Support Comparative Effectiveness Research**

WHITEHOUSE STATION, N.J., Feb. 17, 2009 – Merck & Co., Inc. today said that enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) with the health-related provisions in the legislation, will not only help to stimulate the economy, but also will help America achieve comprehensive health care reform this year.

Specifically, the Company believes the provisions expanding access to health insurance will support the newly unemployed; the Medicaid provisions will help to sustain important State programs; and the provisions supporting the standardization and adoption of health information technology are an important prelude to health care reform. The increased investment in the National Institutes of Health and the funding of prevention and wellness programs also are important steps to improving health care outcomes for all Americans.

Merck also supports the provisions in the ARRA—commonly known as the national stimulus package—that provide a substantial short-term funding increase for comparative effectiveness research (CER). The Company has strongly supported the idea of a national CER effort for several years. The new government funding of CER will expand the pipeline for this important work. As we said in testimony to Congress in 2007, we believe this national initiative is an important step toward improving health care quality and patient outcomes.

Properly structured, CER research can help direct health resources to the most appropriate health interventions for patients by increasing the amount of credible and accessible information available to patients, providers and payers.

Ultimately, Merck supports the CER structure as envisioned in S. 3408, "*The Comparative Effectiveness Research Act of 2008*," as introduced by Senators Baucus and Conrad in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. The Baucus/Conrad proposal includes many important features such as strong stakeholder involvement, a high degree of transparency and reliable long-term funding. It also provides the potential to garner the political consensus needed to sustain a large national initiative for the long term. We urge Congress to consider including this structure in any future health care reform.

Additionally, we recognize that properly structured and well-executed CER studies will improve the competitive aspects of the U.S. health care system. We also share the belief that health care reform should focus on improving, refining and increasing competition in the marketplace around value, including cost and quality. A competitive marketplace would preserve and heighten incentives to innovate across the whole healthcare spectrum of benefit design, payment, technology, and service delivery while enhancing patient and consumer choice. CER as structured in the proposed Baucus/Conrad legislation would mark an important step toward changing the dynamics of marketplace competition in health care.

We look forward to participating in the upcoming health care reform debate. Merck intends to take an active role in the national discussion on the need for expanded health insurance access and key systematic reforms. In coming months, we will advocate for a new and expanded structure for CER in any reform legislation.

### **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](http://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, 2007, 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.