



Statement

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VIOXX[®] Trial Update: VIOXX Product Liability Trial in Florida Circuit Court, Hillsborough County

WHITEHOUSE STATION, N.J., Sept. 17, 2007 – Merck & Co., Inc. is beginning its defense in a VIOXX[®] product liability lawsuit, with opening statements set to begin this week in the Circuit Court of Hillsborough County, Fla. The Company believes the evidence will show that VIOXX did not cause the heart attack of Refik Kozic.

In *Kozic v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, Mr. Kozic claims that he used VIOXX for approximately nine weeks before suffering his heart attack in April 2001 at age 50.

The evidence will show that Mr. Kozic had atherosclerosis and coronary artery disease in two vessels of his heart. His heart attack occurred in the left anterior descending artery, at a site where coronary artery disease was present. Mr. Kozic's right coronary artery was also diffusely diseased with significant lesions. Mr. Kozic had high cholesterol and other risk factors, which contributed to the progression of his disease over a long period of time.

"We believe it was Mr. Kozic's longstanding cardiovascular disease that caused his heart attack and not VIOXX," said Mike Brock of Rushton, Stakely, Johnston & Garrett, P.A., based in Montgomery, Ala., outside counsel for Merck.

Florida Circuit Court Judge William P. Levens will preside over the case. This is the first VIOXX case in Florida to go to trial.

In addition to Mr. Brock, Merck is represented by Patricia E. Lowry and J.B. Murray of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP, based in West Palm Beach, Fla.; and Eva Esber of Williams & Connolly LLP, based in Washington, D.C.

Status of Litigation

Juries have decided in favor of Merck 10 times and in plaintiffs' favor five times. There have been two mistrials and a federal judge recently set aside one of Merck's 10 verdicts.

For information regarding additional cases scheduled for trial in 2007 visit www.merck.com/newsroom/vioxx.

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, 2006, and in its periodic reports on Form 10-Q and Form 8-K, which the Company incorporates by reference.

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