



Statement

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**VIOXX® Trial Update:
Statement on VIOXX Product Liability Trial in New Orleans**

WHITEHOUSE STATION, N.J., Oct. 30, 2006 – Merck & Co., Inc. is conducting a vigorous defense in the product liability lawsuit, Mason v. Merck, which is scheduled to go to trial before a jury on Oct. 30, 2006, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. The Company believes the evidence in this case will show that VIOXX did not cause Charles Laron Mason’s non-fatal heart attack in 2003 and that Merck provided appropriate information about VIOXX to the medical, scientific and regulatory communities.

“The evidence will show that Mr. Mason exhibited many risk factors for a heart attack, regardless of his short-term use of VIOXX,” said Ted Mayer of Hughes Hubbard & Reed, outside counsel for Merck. “He had significant coronary artery disease, as well as a family history of cardiac problems and he was considered medically obese. Mr. Mason will be unable to meet his legal burden of proving through valid scientific evidence that VIOXX contributed to his heart attack.”

U.S. District Court Judge Eldon E. Fallon, who is overseeing all of the federal court litigation, will preside over the case. This is the fourth federal VIOXX trial; Merck won the first case, Plunkett v. Merck, in February. The damages portion of the verdict in favor of the plaintiff in the second federal case, Barnett v. Merck, was recently overturned by Judge Fallon. Merck won the third case, Smith v. Merck, in September.

The Mason case was specifically selected by the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee for this trial.

“We will continue to defend these cases individually,” said Kenneth C. Frazier, senior vice president and general counsel of Merck. “Merck acted responsibly – from researching VIOXX prior to approval in clinical trials involving almost 10,000 patients – to monitoring the medicine while it was on the market – to voluntarily withdrawing the medicine when it did.”

In early 2002, as a result of a company-sponsored study called VIGOR, Merck voluntarily proposed changes to the VIOXX label to incorporate additional information for patients and prescribers and the new label was approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Mr. Mason's alleged use of VIOXX – from September 2002 to July 2003 – took place after the company had added the additional information.

Merck is represented by Philip Beck and Tarek Ismail of Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP in Chicago. Mr. Beck has tried the previous three federal VIOXX cases and Mr. Ismail successfully defended the company in a California state case earlier this year.

To date, there have been 10 cases that have proceeded to trial. In six of those cases, juries returned verdicts in Merck's favor. A state judge set aside one of those six verdicts. In the four cases resulting in a plaintiff's verdict, Merck already has filed an appeal or sought judicial review. In one of those four cases, a federal judge overturned the damage award.

The claims of more than 3,000 plaintiff groups have been dismissed to date. That includes more than 1,100 plaintiff groups whose claims were dismissed with prejudice either by plaintiffs themselves or by the courts. More than 2,000 additional plaintiff groups have had their claims dismissed without prejudice.

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 statement 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 statement should be evaluated together with the many uncertainties that affect Merck's business, particularly those mentioned in the cautionary statements in Item 1 of Merck's Form 10-K for the year ended Dec. 31, 2005, and in its periodic reports on Form 10-Q and Form 8-K, which the Company incorporates by reference.

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