

# MEDIA STATEMENT



## **MSD research Laboratories appoints Dr Fiona H. Marshall to lead UK Discovery Centre**

Monday 22 January: London: MSD, known as MSD, known as Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA in the US and Canada, has today announced the appointment of Dr Fiona H. Marshall to lead its new discovery research facility in London, focussed on early bioscience discovery and entrepreneurial innovation. Dr. Marshall joins MSD from Sosei Group Corporation where she was Executive Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, and more specifically from Heptares Therapeutics Ltd., a biotechnology company that she co-founded more than a decade ago, and which was acquired by Sosei in 2015.

Dr. Marshall is a world renowned expert in GProtein-Coupled-Receptor (GPCR) biology, an active area of drug research and has more than 25 years' experience in drug discovery. She led the first group to show that GPCRs could form heterodimers and has published more than 80 peer-reviewed papers in the area of GPCRs.

“Fiona’s exemplary scientific accomplishments and in-depth drug discovery experience will enable her to make important contributions to the scientific environment within MRL, said Dr. Roger M. Perlmutter, President, MSD Research Laboratories. “We are pleased to welcome her to MSD, where she will set an enormously high standard as the leader of our new London-based, UK Discovery Research Center.”

Dr. Marshall is currently the chair of the UK Medical Research Council Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme Committee and is on the Translational Advisory Groups of the Francis Crick Institute and the Wellcome Trust. Additionally she is a member of the Board of Trustees of Alzheimer’s Research UK (ARUK), on the council of the Academy Of Medical Sciences and the Industry and Translation committee of the Royal Society. .

“I am delighted to be joining MSD as it expands its discovery network into London. I relish the challenge of leading MRL’s new team of scientists in the UK as we embark upon the development of the new Discovery Centre in London announced late last year,” said Dr Marshall. “MSD’s commitment to bringing the brightest and best scientific talent to London presents exciting opportunities to discover new medical advances as part of the vibrant London life sciences community.”

Prior to founding Heptares, Dr. Marshall spent 12 years at GlaxoWellcome/GlaxoSmithKline where she held positions of increasing responsibility including Head of the Department of Molecular Pharmacology. Thereafter she was Director of Discovery Pharmacology, Europe for Millennium Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Marshall has also served as a consultant for numerous venture capital and biotech companies.

**About MSD Research Laboratories**

MSD employs approximately 12,000 people in the company's research activities globally. The company's R&D network operates and collaborates within leading biomedical ecosystems, including, the San Francisco Bay area, California; Boston/Cambridge, Massachusetts; New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The company prioritizes its research and development efforts and focuses on candidates that it believes represent breakthrough science that will make a difference for patients and payers.

For further information please go to <http://www.msd.com/research/index.html>

**About MSD**

For more than a century, MSD, a leading global biopharmaceutical company, has been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for the world's most challenging diseases. MSD is a trade name of Merck & Co., Inc., with headquarters in Kenilworth, N.J., U.S.A. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies and animal health products, we work with customers and operate in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to health care through far-reaching policies, programmes and partnerships. Today, MSD continues to be at the forefront of research to advance the prevention and treatment of diseases that threaten people and communities around the world. For more information, visit [www.msd-UK.com](http://www.msd-UK.com) and connect with us on Twitter @MSDintheUK.

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