



## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MSD in the UK shortlisted for National Diversity Award**

HODDESDON, UK, September 7, 2020 – MSD (tradename of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA (NYSE: MRK)) a leading UK and global healthcare company, announced today that they have been shortlisted for a National Diversity Award, from over 64,000 entries.

The National Diversity Awards, which are sponsored by ITV, are one of the highest accolades for championing Diversity in the UK.

MSD is one of twelve finalists in the 'Diverse Company' category and has been recognised for its continued implementation of a strong Diversity and Inclusion Strategy which has resulted in an inclusive culture where employees can 'bring their whole self to work everyday'.

Milestones achieved include the introduction of Mental Health First Aider training for employees and the assembly of several successful and thriving networks within the MSD Diversity and Inclusion strands including: the MSD UK Rainbow Alliance (LGBTQ+), LEAD ( League of Employees of African Descent), the Next Generation Network (NGN) which aims to include our multi – generational employees in all that we do, MSD Women's' Network and enABLE which supports employees with a disability.

Last year MSD also won a national PMEA Award (Pharmaceutical Market Excellence Award) for the initiative and event: 'Making Gender Diversity Matter: Five Burning Questions' event, which was jointly organised and held by MSD and healthcare communications agency partner, Aurora in February 2019.

Five Burning Questions explored the importance of gender diversity in the workplace and how it cannot be achieved by just one organisation, individual or only by women; it takes effort from everyone.

The event sparked cross-industry discussions on topics related to this area and the importance of having gender diversity as part of a fully inclusive and diverse workplace, with the following key results:

- 84% of attendees believed they had gained real-world insights they could apply to help drive change
- 92% felt the event broadened their understanding of current thinking on gender diversity
- Organisations from a number of organisations representing a range of different sectors issued guidance directly based on our findings

Elizabeth Cooper, Executive Director for Human Resources at MSD in the UK, said: “At MSD we believe that diversity and inclusion aren’t simply ‘nice’ virtues for a company to have or boxes for us to tick – we are deeply committed to fostering an inclusive environment that embraces different perspectives and values the contributions of each individual.

We are both delighted and proud to have made this shortlist from such an extensive volume of entries and look forward to February next year when the results are announced.”

David Peacock, Managing Director, MSD in the UK and Ireland said: “I am extremely proud and excited at the news that MSD has been shortlisted from thousands of entries for a National Diversity Award. This is an outstanding recognition for the continued work that is undertaken by the people in our company everyday to ensure that everyone, regardless of their background, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or age – has a voice that is heard.

Diversity and inclusion are essential to ensuring the future success of any organisation and society. As an organisation we have made excellent progress, but I believe we are all still on a journey, learning from each other everyday. I am honoured to be leading a company that continues to be trailblazing and play a key role in ensuring a more inclusive society.”

The winners for 2020 will be announced at a ceremony at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral on February 26 next year.

## **About MSD**

For more than 125 years, MSD has been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for many of the world's most challenging diseases in pursuit of our mission to save and improve lives. MSD is a trade name of Merck & Co., Inc., with headquarters in Kenilworth, N.J., U.S.A. We demonstrate our commitment to patients and population health by increasing access to health care through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. Today, MSD continues to be at the forefront of research to prevent and treat diseases that threaten people and animals – including cancer, infectious diseases such as HIV and Ebola, and emerging animal diseases – as we aspire to be the premier research-intensive biopharmaceutical company in the world. For more information, visit [www.msd-uk.com](http://www.msd-uk.com) and connect with us @MSDintheUK on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

## **Forward-Looking Statement of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA**

This news release of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA (the “company”) includes “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of the company’s management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. If underlying assumptions prove inaccurate or risks or uncertainties materialize, actual results may differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

Risks and uncertainties include but are not limited to, general industry conditions and competition; general economic factors, including interest rate and currency exchange rate fluctuations; the impact of the recent global outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19); the impact of pharmaceutical industry regulation and health care legislation in the United States and internationally; global trends toward health care cost containment; technological advances, new products and patents attained by competitors; challenges inherent in new product development, including obtaining regulatory approval; the company’s ability to accurately predict future market conditions;

manufacturing difficulties or delays; financial instability of international economies and sovereign risk; dependence on the effectiveness of the company's patents and other protections for innovative products; and the exposure to litigation, including patent litigation, and/or regulatory actions.

The company undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Additional factors that could cause results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in the company's 2019 Annual Report on Form 10-K and the company's other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) available at the SEC's Internet site ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)).