

# MEDIA STATEMENT



***UNDER STRICT EMBARGO: 00:01 HOURS, 27 MONDAY 2017***

## **MSD announces plan to establish UK Discovery Centre in London**

MSD, known as Merck & Co., Inc., of Kenilworth, NJ, USA in the US and Canada, has today announced its commitment to establish a state of the art life sciences discovery research facility in London, focussed on early bioscience discovery and entrepreneurial innovation.

The new UK Discovery Centre is anticipated to create 150 new research roles with the aim of attracting the brightest and best research scientists to work in London. It is also envisaged that the new site will accommodate approximately 800 additional staff for the UK domestic market and other European clinical functions currently based in MSD in the UK's Hoddesdon headquarters. The company is currently evaluating several potential locations in the London region with a target date of 2020 for operational readiness. In the meantime, MSD plans to establish a small temporary research facility in the area and is actively recruiting for suitably qualified scientific talent.

The proposed investment is in line with MSD Research Laboratories' continued pursuit of new innovative scientific discovery and collaboration and follows similar investments in new biomedical centres in the San Francisco Bay Area and Cambridge Massachusetts. MSD believes that locating a research facility in London will expand MSD's opportunity to engage with leading researchers in the UK and Europe.

"Strong discovery capabilities and the pursuit of scientific excellence are foundational to MSD's mission to save and improve lives around the world," said Dr. Roger M. Perlmutter, president, MSD Research Laboratories. "This new London location will enable us to build on our proud legacy of invention and be an important contributor to the vibrant and rapidly growing London life sciences community while providing access for more collaborations within the European life science ecosystem."

"We believe London to be a unique bioscience centre of excellence and a key component of the established golden triangle for academic science of London-Oxford-Cambridge," said Louise Houson, managing director, MSD in the UK and Ireland. "This investment presents a major opportunity for us to work in collaboration with the UK Government to build on the forward thinking and ambitious Industrial Strategy White Paper published by the Government today."

It is intended that the UK Discovery Centre will become the location for MSD's UK HQ, making the central London site a unique location within the UK pharmaceutical sector.

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## Notes to editors

### 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.

### 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>

### Forward-Looking Statement

This news release of MSD (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. There can be no guarantees with respect to pipeline products that the products will receive the necessary regulatory approvals or that they will prove to be commercially successful. If underlying assumptions prove inaccurate or risks or uncertainties materialise, 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 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 2016 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)).

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