



News Release

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MSD's UK COVID-19 grants programme now open for applications

MSD commits to help UK health charities continue to support vulnerable patients

HODDESDON, UK, 1st July, 2020 – MSD (tradename of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA (NYSE: MRK)) announced today the launch of a new grants programme designed to help UK-based health charities recover from the negative effects of the global SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic and support patients and families who are vulnerable to infection.

Open to all UK-based organisations that meet the criteria, the new scheme will provide funding for a range of different projects designed to help meet the needs of vulnerable patients at this difficult time for the UK charitable sector. This means that valuable projects which might otherwise have proven too difficult or impossible for some organisations to implement (due to the unexpected financial constraints brought about by COVID-19) may now prove feasible once again. Similarly, there may be newly conceived projects that organisations wish to propose that could significantly improve the lives of people who are vulnerable to COVID-19 infection.

“In the course of our mission to help improve and save lives, MSD is often privileged to hear the stories of patients from all around the world,” said Dr Dilruwan (‘Cham’) Herath, Medical Director at MSD. “We cannot ignore the fact that many vulnerable people are suffering at this time or are at an increased risk of harm. We hope that our new COVID-19 grants programme will make a significant difference to UK-based organisations whose operations may

have been adversely affected by the pandemic, but which remain nonetheless, a vital source of support for those in need.”

Details of MSD’s new UK COVID-19 grants programme and eligibility criteria can be accessed via the MSD UK affiliate website: <https://www.msd-uk.com/partnerships/partnerships.xhtml#grants> Organisations have until 31st July 2020 to apply.

The launch of the programme marks yet another significant announcement from MSD which, at a global level, has instituted a series of measures to tackle the pandemic, including a relief package totaling more than \$30 million, the donation of equipment and the advancement of three scientific programmes designed to assess the efficacy and safety of three candidate products in the fight against COVID-19.

Further information on how MSD is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic can also be found via the UK MSD website: <https://www.msd-uk.com/news-room/covid-19.xhtml>

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 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 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 2018 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).

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