NEWS RELEASE

Merck Announces Top-Line Results of TRA-2P Study of Vorapaxar

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Company Will Review Data FromTRA-2P and TRACER With External Experts to Inform Next Steps

Merck (NYSE:MRK), known outside the United States and Canada as MSD, today announced the top-line results of the TRA-2P (Thrombin Receptor Antagonist in Secondary Prevention of atherothrombotic ischemic events) study of vorapaxar. Merck is developing vorapaxar, an investigational oral Protease Activated Receptor 1 (PAR-1) thrombin receptor antagonist, for the prevention of thrombosis, or clot formation, and the reduction of cardiovascular events.

TRA-2P showed that the addition of vorapaxar to standard of care significantly reduced the risk of the protocol-specified primary endpoint of the composite of cardiovascular death (CVD), heart attack (myocardial infarction, or MI), stroke or urgent coronary revascularization compared to standard of care. There was a significant increase in bleeding, including intracranial hemorrhage (ICH), among patients taking vorapaxar in addition to standard of care, although there was a lower risk of ICH in patients without a history of stroke.

The full results of TRA-2P will be presented at the American College of Cardiology Scientific Sessions in March.

"In developing vorapaxar, Merck and our scientific collaborators set a very high bar – would the addition of vorapaxar to standard of care provide incremental benefit in preventing clots?" said Peter S. Kim, president, Merck Research Laboratories. "We are pleased that TRA-2P met its primary endpoint, and we look forward to discussing the results with the scientific community."

Merck will review the data from both TRA2-P and TRACER with the investigators and other outside experts to help

better understand the profile of this investigational medicine in specific patient populations and to determine next steps, including potential regulatory filings.

Vorapaxar has been evaluated in two major clinical outcomes studies: TRA-2P TIMI 50 (Clinicaltrials.gov identifier: **NCT00526474**) was led by the Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction (TIMI) Study Group of Brigham and Women's Hospital. TRA-2P was a secondary prevention study in 26,449 patients with a heart attack, an ischemic stroke, or documented peripheral vascular disease. TRACER (Thrombin Receptor Antagonist for Clinical Event Reduction in Acute Coronary Syndrome), (Clinicaltrials.gov identifier: **NCT00527943**) was an acute care, hospital-based study of approximately 12,944 patients with non-ST-segment-elevation acute coronary syndrome. The study was led by the Duke Clinical Research Institute, and results were presented in 2011 at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions and published in the January 5, 2012 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine (Vol. 366, No. 1). The news release can be found at **http://www.merck.com/newsroom/news-release-archive/research-and-development/2011_1113.html.**

About Merck

Today's Merck is a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. Merck is known as MSD outside the United States and Canada. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies, and consumer care 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 healthcare through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. For more information, visit **www.merck.com** and connect with us on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

Forward-Looking Statement

This news release includes “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements may include, but are not limited to, statements about the benefits of the merger between Merck and Schering-Plough, including future financial and operating results, the combined company’s plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts. Such statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of Merck’s management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements: the possibility that the expected synergies from the merger of Merck and Schering-Plough will not be realized, or will not be realized within the expected time period; the impact of pharmaceutical industry regulation and health care legislation; the risk that the businesses will not be integrated successfully; disruption from the

merger making it more difficult to maintain business and operational relationships; Merck's ability to accurately predict future market conditions; dependence on the effectiveness of Merck's patents and other protections for innovative products; the risk of new and changing regulation and health policies in the United States and internationally and the exposure to litigation and/or regulatory actions.

Merck 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 Merck's 2010 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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