



NEWS RELEASE

Merck Makes \$3 Million Charitable Donation to Support Swim Across America

10/12/2017

Merck's Contribution Will Help Swim Across America Raise \$100 Million for Cancer Research Over the Next Decade

Merck Employees to Conduct Their Own "Swim Across America" Starting in 2018

To help support innovation in cancer research, Merck (NYSE:MRK), known as MSD outside the United States and Canada, today announced that the company will make a \$3 million charitable contribution to **Swim Across America**. Established 30 years ago, Swim Across America, a national nonprofit organization, was founded with the purpose of granting the proceeds from its benefit swims to fund cancer research and clinical trials.

"Every 15 minutes, 50 Americans are diagnosed with cancer," said Rob Butcher, CEO of Swim Across America. "The good news is that there is hope for more Americans to become survivors than ever before, and Swim Across America's commitment to finding new cures and treatments has been an important catalyst for that progress. We are going to apply Merck's contribution to better support our existing benefit swims and add new ones with a goal of funding \$100 million into cancer research and clinical trials in the next decade."

In further support of Merck's mission of inventing for life, the company will look to complete its own "swim across America" by establishing Merck-sponsored teams at benefit swim events. Merck will kick off its participation at the first 2018 Swim Across America event to be held in Tampa, Florida.

"Merck is committed to advancing research and to giving more families hope in the fight against cancer, and we know that that progress can only come from many people and organizations doing their part," said Jill DeSimone, senior vice president, U.S. Oncology, Merck. "Swim Across America has created a program that has inspired

thousands of Americans, including many Merck employees, to participate in their benefit swims with the proceeds funding cancer research and clinical trials. We know this contribution will help them do even more to fight cancer.”

Since its inception, Swim Across America has granted \$70 million toward cancer research. Additionally, more than 100 Olympians have donated their time attending Swim Across America benefit swims and hospital visits.

“I was at our first swim when we raised \$5,000,” said Craig Beardsley, a 1980 Olympian and Swim Across America supporter of 30 years. “The Swim Across America mission is a testimony to the human spirit of coming together to try to solve a problem that has affected nearly everyone. Merck’s contribution is going to allow us to speed up our ability to add more swims so we can fund even more research projects.”

Swim Across America currently hosts benefit swims in Atlanta; Baltimore; Boston; Charlotte, NC; Chicago; Dallas; Denver; Greenwich, Conn.; Kiawah, SC; Long Island, NY; Nantucket, Mass.; Rhode Island; San Francisco; Seattle; St. Louis and Tampa, Fla.

Merck’s Focus on Cancer

Our goal is to translate breakthrough science into innovative oncology medicines to help people with cancer worldwide. At Merck, helping people fight cancer is our passion and supporting accessibility to our cancer medicines is our commitment. Our focus is on pursuing research in immuno-oncology and we are accelerating every step in the journey – from lab to clinic – to potentially bring new hope to people with cancer. For more information about our oncology clinical trials, visit www.merck.com/clinicaltrials.

About Merck

For more than a century, Merck, a leading global biopharmaceutical company known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada, has been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for many of the world’s most challenging diseases. 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, programs and partnerships. Today, Merck continues to be at the forefront of research to advance the prevention and treatment of diseases that threaten people and communities around the world - including cancer, cardio-metabolic diseases, emerging animal diseases, Alzheimer’s disease and infectious diseases including HIV and Ebola. For more information, visit www.merck.com and connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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. 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 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 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).

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