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News Release

November 17, 2014

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Advances to Sixth Place in the 2014 Access to Medicine Index

- **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, moves up two places from previous rank 8**
- **Access to Medicine Foundation acknowledges strategic approach to access to health by Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany**

Darmstadt, Germany, November 13, 2014 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading company for innovative and top-quality high-tech products in the pharmaceutical, chemical and life science sectors, announced today that it now ranks sixth in the Access to Medicine Index published today by the Access to Medicine Foundation. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has moved up two places compared to the 2012 ranking. This improvement underlines the company's commitment to contribute to overcoming barriers to access for underserved populations and communities in low- and middle-income countries as part of its corporate responsibility and entrepreneurial approach. Every two years, the Access to Medicine Index benchmarks the top pharmaceutical companies on activities and initiatives that are advancing access to medicines in developing countries.

“Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has revised its Access to Health strategy and has launched new initiatives since 2012 including a pro-access business model in India and an innovative initiative to increase local manufacturing capabilities,” the Access to Medicine Foundation cited as reason why Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has advanced in the new ranking.

“Our efforts have been well recognized by the Access to Medicine Foundation and we are proud to be so close to the top five only three years after we started our access to health

Merck KGaA

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initiative,” Stefan Oschmann, CEO Pharma and Executive Board Member at Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, said. ”The fact that we’ve once again improved our ranking proves that access to health has become an integral part of how we conduct business. Of course we will continue our endeavors to better help patients, who are at the core of all our efforts, and to possibly further climb in upcoming rankings.”

The company’s access to health initiative leverages core competencies across all divisions to provide comprehensive high quality health solutions to under-served populations and patients in low- and middle-income countries regardless of their ability to pay.

The company’s strategy to addressing the complex challenge of providing access to underserved populations and patients in low- and middle-income countries focuses upon four priority areas, known as the 4As for Availability, Affordability, Awareness and Accessibility. Whereas availability includes refining of health solutions to address unmet needs tailored to local environments, affordability entails to address the inability to pay challenge. Awareness focuses on empowering people with appropriate tools and knowledge to make informed decisions, whether through education and training or metrics and evidence gathering, and accessibility comprises of initiatives to strengthen supply chain and develop localized health solutions.

Compared to 2012, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, now has been recognized by the Access to Medicine Foundation in particular for leading practices such as:

- Strategic approach that comprises for example strong focus on research & development for local and unmet needs and forward integration of supply chains
- Multi-dimensional approach to fight the tropical worm disease schistosomiasis: a long-term donation program that aims to contribute to eliminate the disease, and developing a new diagnostic tool and a pediatric formulation
- Improved targeting of pricing strategies, equitable pricing strategies that include intra-country segmentation.

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, established its Access to Health initiative in February 2011 and has identified access gaps and opportunities to better meet the needs of



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underserved patients. The unit is ensuring that access brings added value to the community at large, and is becoming an integral part of how Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, conducts business in a responsible, sustainable manner. In summary, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, recognizes the complexity of bringing health solutions to the poor and understands that Access to Medicine Index objectives cannot be reached by the pharmaceutical industry alone. Partnership, collaboration and continuous dialogue with a diverse array of stakeholders are key to ensuring that the delivery of sustainable access solutions is serving people's needs.

Another good example is the Capacity Advancement Program (CAP) of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, to raise awareness of diabetes in Africa and in India by educating the public and supporting the healthcare system on ways to prevent, diagnose and manage diabetes effectively.

Notes to editors:

- Further information for journalists including a **digital press kit** are [here](#).
- Our company on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)
- **Photos and video footage** can be found [here](#)

Access to Medicine Foundation

The Access to Medicine Foundation is an international not for profit organization stimulating pharmaceutical companies to improve access to medicine to societies in need. Based in Haarlem, the Netherlands, the Foundation publishes the Access to Medicine Index, the first Index of its kind to rank pharmaceutical companies with respect to their efforts to enhance global access to medicine.

The Foundation aims to advance access to medicine in developing countries by encouraging the pharmaceutical industry to accept a greater role towards improving access to medicine in less developed countries. Please find more information [here](#).

Access to Medicine Index

Access to medicines remains a very serious concern for billions of people suffering from disease and is still a primary challenge for the global health system. Reflecting the key role of the pharmaceutical industry in addressing the challenges of access, it is essential that the Access to Medicine Index's approach to monitoring and evaluating the performance of the industry in this work is robust, balanced and comprehensive. The foundation every two years ranks 20 medium to large-size pharmaceutical companies with respect to their efforts to enhance global access to medicine. You can see the latest ranking as well as rankings from the past [here](#).



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About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

Merck KGaA of Darmstadt, Germany, is a leading company for innovative and top-quality high-tech products in the pharmaceutical and chemical sectors. Its subsidiaries in Canada and the United States operate under the umbrella brand EMD. Around 39,000 employees work in 66 countries to improve the quality of life for patients, to further the success of customers and to help meet global challenges. The company generated total revenues of € 11.1 billion in 2013 with its four divisions: Biopharmaceuticals, Consumer Health, Performance Materials and Life Science Tools. Merck KGaA of Darmstadt, Germany is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company – since 1668, the name has stood for innovation, business success and responsible entrepreneurship. Holding an approximately 70 percent interest, the founding family remains the majority owner of the company to this day.