

## News Release

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## RonaCare® Balmance Restores Harmony to the Skin

- **Standardized extract thanks to unique production process**
- **Natural ingredient inspired by the cornflower**
- **Skin comfort stabilizer for sensitive and stressed skin**

Darmstadt, Germany, March 27, 2020 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, today introduced RonaCare® Balmance, a natural standardized extract of the *centaurea cyanus* flower, also known as the cornflower. The key bioactive ingredient in RonaCare® Balmance is feruloyl-serotonin (Moschamine). It is obtained by complex multi-step extraction, including supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> extraction and under sustainable considerations, which makes this product unique. RonaCare® Balmance conforms to the COSMOS and NATRUE standards.

“RonaCare® Balmance is the feel-good factor for sensitive and stressed skin. It provides fast skin relief and peace of mind in the long term. It lets consumers look as good as they feel,” says Beate Anniés, Head of Cosmetics at Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

RonaCare® Balmance restores harmony to skin thanks to its soothing and calming properties. Working as a skin comfort stabilizer for hypersensitive and problematic skin, the product reduces the susceptibility to skin redness, roughness and itching, also in case of stress (in-vivo). In addition, it supports skin irritation suppression. Comprehensive in-vitro and ex-vivo data show the ability of the cornflower extract of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, to significantly reduce the expression of different inflammation biomarkers, including cytokines and chemokines involved in chronic inflammation processes.<sup>1</sup>

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“With this new launch, we enrich our portfolio of natural ingredients for consumers who make high demands on the products they use,” comments Dorothea Wenzel, Head of Surface Solutions at the Performance Materials business sector of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. “RonaCare® Balmance minimizes the risk of chronic imbalance in over-reactive skin and balances its defense.”

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### **About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany**

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, operates across healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 57,000 employees work to make a positive difference to millions of people’s lives every day by creating more joyful and sustainable ways to live. From advancing gene editing technologies and discovering unique ways to treat the most challenging diseases to enabling the intelligence of devices – the company is everywhere. In 2019, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 16.2 billion in 66 countries.

The company holds the global rights to the name and trademark “Merck” internationally. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as EMD Serono in healthcare, MilliporeSigma in life science, and EMD Performance Materials. Since its founding 1668, scientific exploration and responsible entrepreneurship have been key to the company’s technological and scientific advances. To this day, the founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed company.

<sup>1</sup> In vivo and in vitro modes of action do not necessarily represent the mode of action in the finished good.