NEWS RELEASE

Jan7Merck Provides Update on Investigational 9-valent HPV Vaccine V503 to U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

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Merck (NYSE:MRK), known as MSD outside the United States and Canada, today provided an overview of the clinical trial program for V503, the company's investigational 9-valent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in the United States. Merck said that the pivotal efficacy trial is complete, the primary endpoints have been met and the company expects to submit a Biologics License Application for V503 to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2013.

The study evaluated the efficacy, immunogenicity and safety of V503 in females 16-26 years of age. Merck plans to present results from this study, as well as other results from the Phase III clinical program for V503, at the EUROGIN (EUropean Research Organisation on Genital Infection and Neoplasia) congress in November.

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**.

Merck 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. These statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of Merck’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; Merck’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 Merck’s patents and other protections for innovative products; and the exposure to litigation, including patent 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 2012 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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