

**MSD Ireland (Human Health) named as one of
Europe's 2012 Best Workplaces by Great Place to Work®**

DUBLIN – 20th June 2012: MSD in Ireland is proud to announce today that the Human Health operation based in Leopardstown has been recognised as one of Europe's Best Workplaces by Great Place to Work®.

In its first appearance at these awards on a European level, MSD was not only ranked 34th out of the top 50 Best Companies in Europe (in the SME category), but it also won the 'Special Recognition - Employee Involvement' award. This follows continued success for MSD on a national level in Ireland where the Human Health operation jumped from thirteenth to fourth position in the 2012 Great Place to Work® in Ireland SME category.

The ranking is Europe's largest annual study of workplace excellence and identifies the top 100 organisations to work for in Europe across three different categories.

A key focus of the MSD strategy is to become an 'employer of choice' and this has created a culture of high employee involvement and engagement. A cross-functional 'Change Team' was created to support the organisation as it grows and evolves. This group channels the 'bottom-up' approach championed by HR and the Leadership Team whereby employees feedback and input into decision-making and influence the overall business strategy.

"We believe it is the skill, motivation and particularly the adaptability of our employees that creates an added competitive advantage for MSD, having just as much impact as the science behind our products", said Emer O'Byrne, Director HR, MSD. "The ability to adapt to a changing external environment is a fundamental competency that we as an

organisation are constantly developing. We are harnessing the skills and energy of our employees through their involvement in strategy and in particular through our rotating 'change team', which is focussed on engagement across the organisation to build a high performance and inclusive culture where decisions are made at the right levels. As a result our employees are involved, feel valued and recognised for their contribution to MSD's current and future success".

Dr Neil Boyle, Managing Director, MSD Ireland (Human Health) said: "MSD knows that it is the people who have made the company successful and continue to drive its development. This award is testament to our passion for how science can transform people's lives, and it recognises the quality of the company culture that our employees have collectively created. It is the professionalism, dedication and insight of our team that distinguishes us in the Irish market. I'm delighted to offer my congratulations to the team for a job very well done, and for being awarded at this very high level".

"All companies recognised on Great Place to Work®'s Europe's Best Workplaces have established trust-based work cultures that set the standard not only in Europe but around the world," said José Tolovi, Jr., Chairman of the Board, Great Place to Work®.

"This achievement is a testament to the strength of the organisations' leadership and its commitment to building a great workplace regardless of country, industry or size. Whether economies are growing or under strain, these great companies recognize the importance of a workplace culture based on trust, pride and camaraderie and the positive impact this can have on business performance."

John Ryan, Chief Executive of Great Place to Work ® in Ireland said: "I am delighted that MSD has been recognised as one of Europe's Best Workplaces in 2012. We offer congratulations to the leaders, managers and employees of MSD."

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Further information or to request images please contact:

Helen Collier, Corporate Communications Manager, MSD
01 299 8734 / helen.collier@merck.com

Notes to Editor

Today's MSD is a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. MSD is known as Merck in the United States and Canada and MSD elsewhere. 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, programmes and partnerships.

MSD in Ireland

MSD employs over 2,300 people at operations at sites in Dublin, Carlow, Cork, Tipperary and Wicklow. In the past five decades, the company has invested over €2.2 billion in Ireland. MSD is one of Ireland's leading exporters and contributes significantly towards making the pharmaceutical industry the country's leading export sector. MSD is a member of Guaranteed Irish and manufactures or packages many of its leading products for the world market in Ireland. For more information, visit www.msd.ie

About Great Place to Work®:

Great Place to Work® is a global research, consulting and training firm that helps organisations improve their business performance by identifying, creating and sustaining great workplaces through the development of high-trust workplace cultures. Great Place to Work® serves companies and organisations across all sectors including private, not-for-profit and the public sector in over 45 countries on all six continents. It is best known for its Best Workplace and Best Companies Programmes and is the company behind FORTUNE Magazine's *100 Best Companies to Work For*.

(iii)About Europe's Best Workplaces list:

Europe's Best Workplaces List ranks the top 100 European organisations to work for. Successful organisations are ranked in one of three categories:

MNCs (Multinationals)

Large – 500+ employees

SMEs (Small/Medium Enterprises) – 50 – 499 employees

There are 25 organisations in the MNC and Large company lists and 50 on the SME list.

Criteria for the MNC list

To be eligible for inclusion on the 2012 Great Place to Work® MNC list, a company must have:

- At least 1,000 employees around the world
- At least 40% of its global workforce (or 5,000 employees) outside the country in which it is headquartered
- Appeared on at least **three** national Best Workplaces Lists in Europe

A multinational's score is calculated as the average of its individual country scores, weighted by the total number of employees in each country. In addition, a multinational may earn up to 25% of the total score in extra credit based upon:

- The number of countries in which they participate
- The ratio of the number of employees who work for a specific MNC in Europe compared with the total number of employees that are represented by that MNC in the region. The higher this number the higher the credit.

If an MNC does not meet the eligibility criteria for the MNC list, the company automatically competes for inclusion on the size category lists.