

## MSD brings the wonders of chemistry to 1,200 Cork primary school children

**20<sup>th</sup> October 2011:** To celebrate the International Year of Chemistry, MSD in collaboration with Lifetime Lab, Anyone4Science and Cork Institute of Technology will bring the wonders of chemistry to primary school children this October.

The first MSD Wonders of Chemistry Roadshow will welcome 1,200 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class children from all over Cork to take part in fun and interactive chemistry workshops in CIT on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011.

The aim of the roadshow is to take science out of the classroom and showcase the interactive, practical elements of chemistry to encourage the uptake of science subjects among students at post primary level.

The demonstration lectures provide 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class children with an opportunity to participate actively in a range of hands-on chemistry activities and illustrate the application of science to everyday life. By making science exciting and relevant, the lectures encourage children to take an interest in science from a young age.

Each lecture lasts approx 60 minutes and up to 200 children will attend each lecture with 10 children from the audience selected to assist with experiments.

The 'It's Elementary' lecture - features lots of activity and interaction and offers an introduction to the periodic table and its first 20 elements; where they are found, and quirky things they do. There will be lots of experiments demonstrated and information about the elements, their properties, their occurrence, and their uses. Many of the experiments will be suitable for the children to repeat in class.

John Howell, Site Director at MSD in Brinny, said: "MSD is truly exciting to be working with so many inquisitive young children from the Cork area who we are hopefully inspiring to become budding scientists of the future."

Since the company's establishment in Ireland MSD has worked actively with leading academic institutions in an effort to develop mutually beneficial partnerships and assist them in the development of curricula which meets the needs of the commercial sector, therefore providing employment opportunities to Irish Graduates and Post-Graduates.

In fact during Science Week we open many of our sites up to visits by local students where our chemists and engineers give presentations and offer career advice. MSD's

Wonders of Chemistry Roadshow is an exciting new addition to this programme and we plan to roll out this initiative to students across Ireland in 2012.

**-ENDS-**

### **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, programs and partnerships. For more information, visit [www.msd.ie](http://www.msd.ie).

### **MSD in Ireland**

MSD employs 2,300 people directly in Ireland and provides an additional 9,000 indirect jobs through its operations at sites across Ireland.

In the last five decades the company has invested over €2.2bn 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.

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