

For immediate release

## *ARC Cancer Support Centres is Chosen as MSD in South Dublin's 'Neighbour of Choice'*

- Dublin charity to receive funding of €12,000 to support 'Self Care for the Carer' initiative

19<sup>th</sup> February 2015: MSD's Human Health, Animal Health and Global Financial Services teams, based in Leopardstown, have come together to support local charity *ARC Cancer Support Centres* as part of their Neighbour of Choice initiative, part of the company's dedicated corporate responsibility programme. *ARC Cancer Support Centres* will receive €12,000 for their 'Self Care for the Carer' project, which provides a range of valuable supports to those who care for people diagnosed with cancer.

MSD's Neighbour of Choice programme is a global initiative that provides support to projects that address the needs of local communities. A core part of MSD's employee volunteer programme, Neighbour of Choice demonstrates MSD's ongoing commitment to the communities in which it operates.

Dublin-based *ARC Cancer Support Centres* is a haven offering professional personal support to men and women affected by cancer and those who care for them. With locations on Eccles Street and South Circular Road, the charity provides counselling, emotional support, complementary treatments and care. The funding will be used to implement ARC's 'Self Care for the Carer' initiative - a peer led programme for those who care for people diagnosed with cancer. This will provide vital emotional support for carers, encourage them to take time for themselves, and offer a safe space to share their experiences.

Speaking at the presentation of the grant, Mairead Mangan, Head of Fundraising, *ARC Cancer Support Centres* said, "The 'Self Care for the Carer' programme recognises that those caring for people with cancer also need support, and this generous contribution from MSD will allow us to offer this service to carers in a warm and welcoming environment. We would like to say a huge thank you to MSD for their help in making a tangible difference to the people that we support in the local community."

Brian Longstreet, MD of MSD's Human Health business in Ireland said: "We are delighted to support such a wonderful organisation that does so much to help those affected by cancer and those who care for them. MSD is committed to helping improve health and wellbeing in our communities, and together with our employees and local partners, we are privileged to support projects that will make a real difference now and into the future."

As a global leader in healthcare with a strong presence in Ireland, MSD is committed to leading in the implementation of best practice by addressing critical social, environmental and economic challenges both nationally and internationally. In recent years, MSD has become a leader in corporate responsibility in Ireland through a focus on four priority areas - Access to Health; Environmental Sustainability; Employees; and Ethics & Transparency. Over the past two years alone MSD has contributed over €4 million to support worthwhile and sustainable causes in these areas.



-ENDS-

For media information please contact: Caroline Collins, Corporate Communications Manager MSD - Ireland on 087 188 0185 or by email to [caroline.collins@merck.com](mailto:caroline.collins@merck.com)

#### **About MSD**

MSD, known as Merck in the United States and Canada, has operations in more than 140 countries. In Ireland, MSD employs over 2,000 people across its five sites in Dublin, Carlow, Cork, Tipperary and Wicklow. Its extensive Irish operations encompass manufacturing, commercial and marketing facilities.

MSD is a leader in healthcare, dedicated to helping the world be well through a wide range of innovative health solutions. This includes the development, production and distribution of prescription medicines, vaccines and biologic therapies as well as animal health products.

MSD's commitment to research and to increasing access to healthcare across the world is demonstrated by clearly focused policies, far-reaching programmes and life-enhancing partnerships.

#### **About Arc Cancer Support Centres**

ARC is a haven offering professional personal support to men and women affected by cancer and those who care for them. The support is holistic and complements medical treatment with counselling, psychological support, complementary treatments and care. Founded in 1994, ARC is a registered independent charity.

ARC's aim is "to offer support, complementary therapies and counselling services in a warm and welcoming environment to people with cancer and those who care for them."

For further information, see <http://www.arccancersupport.ie/about>