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**MERCK – TEAMING UP WITH YOUNG PEOPLE
IN THEIR SCIENTIFIC ADVENTURE**

Rimouski, March 2, 2010 – Merck is pleased to announce that it is joining the *Expo-sciences Bell* for a 19th consecutive year to support young people in their scientific adventure and encourage them to explore the fascinating world of science and share the fruit of their discoveries.

“By fostering science education in our communities, we are ensuring that the researchers of tomorrow will have an opportunity to innovate, inspire and contribute to a growing provincial legacy of scientific innovation and progress,” said Carlos Dourado, President of Merck in Canada.

Merck will reward the efforts of young participants during the regional finals and the *Super Expo-sciences Bell, Québec Final 2010*. Merck will also be the main sponsor of the Quebec delegation for the Canada-Wide Science Fair 2010, a national scientific contest that allows youth to exchange and share their scientific knowledge.

Once again this year, Merck's support will involve a number of prizes and bursaries to be awarded at various stages of the *Expo-sciences*. During the regional finals, Merck will award 12 prizes, each accompanied by a \$400 bursary, for experimental or design projects with a focus on the preservation and improvement of human health. Merck will also award a \$1,000 bursary for the best project in this area during the *Super Expo-sciences Bell, Québec Final*, to be held at the Université de Montréal in April.

Merck is committed to supporting young people who share its enthusiasm for research and scientific progress. The company firmly believes in its commitment to the community. Merck regularly invites Cegep and university level science students for guided tours of its research facilities. It has also developed a co-op program for graduate students to provide them with opportunities to work with world-class researchers in an environment that is at the leading edge of technology.

The 2010 *Expo-sciences Bell* marks the 50th year of science fairs in Quebec. As a leader in scientific discovery with the largest private biomedical research facility in Canada, Merck is proud to commemorate this historic landmark.

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About Merck

Today's Merck is working to help the world be well. Through our medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies, and consumer and animal 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 programs that donate and deliver our products to the people who need them. Merck Be well. For more information, visit www.merck.com.

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. Such statements may include, but are not limited to, statements about the benefits of the proposed merger between Merck and Schering-Plough, including future financial and operating results, the combined company’s plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts. Such statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of Merck’s and Schering-Plough’s management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements: the possibility that the expected synergies from the merger of Merck and Schering-Plough will not be realized, or will not be realized within the expected time period, due to, among other things, the impact of pharmaceutical industry regulation and pending legislation that could affect the pharmaceutical industry; the risk that the businesses will not be integrated successfully; disruption from the merger making it more difficult to maintain business and operational relationships; Merck’s ability to accurately predict future market conditions; dependence on the effectiveness of Merck’s patents and other protections for innovative products; the risk of new and changing regulation and health policies in the U.S. and internationally and the exposure to 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 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K, Schering-Plough’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2009, the proxy statement filed by Merck on June 25, 2009 and each company’s other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) available at the SEC’s Internet site (www.sec.gov).