

**Merck Frosst Congratulates Nobel Laureate
for Research Leading to Development of GARDASIL®**

KIRKLAND, Quebec – October 7, 2008 – Merck Frosst Canada would like to extend its warmest congratulations to German researcher Dr. Harald zur Hausen, laureate of one half of the 2008 Noble Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his "*discovery of human papilloma viruses causing cervical cancer*".

Dr. Harald zur Hausen's research was fundamental to the development of GARDASIL®, a vaccine that is 96 to 100% effective at preventing infections from the four HPV types (HPV 6, 11, 16 and 18) that cause the most clinical disease, including 90% of all cases of genital warts, at least 70% of all cervical cancers and 55-72% of vulvar and vaginal cancers.

"Without a doubt, all research leading to the development of GARDASIL® was built on the shoulders of Dr. Harald zur Hausen's work," said Dawn Graham, President of Merck Frosst Canada. "On behalf of all Merck Frosst Canada employees, I extend my sincerest congratulations to him for his Nobel Prize."

Now approved in 108 countries around the world, GARDASIL® has been available in Canada since 2006 for females between nine and 26 years of age for the prevention of cervical cancer, vulvar cancer, vaginal cancer, precancerous lesions and genital warts caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18.

GARDASIL® has also been endorsed by numerous medical organizations, representing thousands of healthcare professionals across Canada, including the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), the Regroupement des gynécologues oncologues du Québec (RGOQ), the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC), the Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC), the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada (GOC), the Society of Canadian Colposcopists (SCC) and the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS).

In April of this year, Dr. Harald zur Hausen was chosen as one of six awardees of the Gairdner International Awards for medical research. The Gairdner awards, founded 49 years ago by the late Toronto businessman James Gairdner, have grown to become one of the most prestigious awards in all of science: more than 70 Gairdner awardees, including Dr. Harald zur Hausen, have gone on to win a Nobel Prize. For more information, visit www.gairdner.org.

About Merck Frosst

At Merck Frosst, patients come first. Merck Frosst Canada Ltd. is a research-driven pharmaceutical company discovering, developing and marketing a broad range of innovative medicines and vaccines to improve human health. Merck Frosst is one of the top 25 R&D investors in Canada, with an investment of close to \$110 million in 2007. More information about Merck Frosst is available at <http://www.merckfrosst.com>

Forward-Looking Statement

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on management's current expectations and involve risks and uncertainties, which may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in the statements. The forward-looking statements may include statements regarding product development, product potential or financial performance. No forward-looking statement can be guaranteed, and actual results may differ materially from those projected. Merck undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. Forward-looking statements in this press release should be evaluated together with the many uncertainties that affect Merck's business, particularly those mentioned in the cautionary statements in Item 1 of Merck's Form 10-K for the year ended Dec. 31, 2006, and in its periodic reports on Form 10-Q and Form 8-K, which the Company incorporates by reference.

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