

News Release

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Annual General Meeting Approves Dividend Increase

- **Executive Board actions approved by a significant majority**

Darmstadt, Germany, April 29, 2016 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, announced that at its 21st Annual General Meeting held today in Frankfurt, shareholders approved a dividend increase of € 0.05 or 5% to € 1.05 per share. This corresponds to a payout ratio of around 21.6% based on earnings per share pre exceptionals.

The Annual General Meeting approved the actions of the members of the Executive Board and of the Supervisory Board for fiscal 2015 by a significant majority and approved all of the resolutions.

More than 1,000 shareholders took part in the Annual General Meeting. When the resolutions were voted on, 80,024,483 shares were represented, corresponding to 61.9% of the approximately 129.2 million shares issued.

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Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is a leading science and technology company in healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 50,000 employees work to further develop technologies that improve and enhance life – from biopharmaceutical therapies to treat cancer or multiple sclerosis, cutting-edge systems for scientific research and production, to liquid crystals for smartphones and LCD televisions. In 2015, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 12.85 billion in 66 countries.

Founded in 1668, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company. The founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed corporate group. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, holds the global rights to the Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, name and brand. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the company operates as EMD Serono, MilliporeSigma and EMD Performance Materials.

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Merck KGaA

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