



BILLION DOLLAR
ROUNDTABLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sharon Patterson, President and CEO, Billion Dollar Roundtable
847-337-9102
sharonpatterson@bdrusa.org

Merck Contact: Sarra Herzog, Director, Global Communications
908-740-1871
Sarra_Herzog@merck.com

**BILLION DOLLAR ROUNDTABLE
INDUCTS MERCK & CO.**

Pharmaceutical Innovator Recognized for \$1 Billion Annual Supplier Diversity Spend

August 16, 2017 – The Billion Dollar Roundtable Inc. (BDR), a top-level advocacy organization that promotes corporate supplier diversity excellence, announced today at the BDR annual summit in Oakland, Calif., the induction of Merck & Co., Inc. as one of its 27 member companies. Merck joins an exclusive group of U.S.-based corporations that have attained \$1 billion or more in annual Tier 1 supply-chain diversity spend.

“As a global pharmaceutical company that supplies life-saving medicines, vaccines and other healing products, Merck’s membership adds another corporate member with a reputation for fostering new ideas and driving innovation and technical expertise. Merck’s market focus adds a new dimension of opportunity for diverse companies seeking to break into a dynamic and growing global industry,” said BDR Chairman Rick Hughes.

The Billion Dollar Roundtable will honor Merck at a formal induction ceremony during its Oakland Summit, showcasing Merck’s robust commitment to economic inclusion and supplier diversity. BDR summits convene corporate procurement executives, supplier diversity professionals, academics, government officials and diverse suppliers to deliberate current approaches to supplier diversity and to devise solutions to foster new opportunities.

“We are honored to become part of the Billion Dollar Roundtable,” said Quentin Roach, Chief Procurement Officer & Senior Vice President - Global Supplier Management Group and Global Workplace & Enterprise Services, Merck & Co., Inc. “At Merck, we value diversity and believe that having a diverse supplier base helps us better understand and anticipate the needs of the people we serve. We look forward to sharing best practices with other corporations that share in our commitment to diversity and inclusion.”

In addition to Merck, BDR member companies are Adient, Apple Inc., AT&T Inc., Avis Budget Group, Bank of America, The Boeing Co., Comcast NBCUniversal, Cummins Inc., CVS Health, Dell Inc., Exelon Corp., Fiat Chrysler, Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp., Honda North America, IBM Corp., Johnson Controls Inc., Johnson & Johnson, Kaiser Permanente, The Kroger Co., Lear Corp., Microsoft Corp., Procter & Gamble Co., Toyota Motor North America Inc., Verizon Communications Inc. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. The BDR surveys the Tier 1 diversity spend of its members annually as a condition of membership.

“Our member companies are excited about Merck joining the Billion Dollar Roundtable. Merck’s induction strengthens the BDR’s portfolio of member companies in key fields of medicine, health care and scientific research. Collaboration is essential to the success of the BDR, and Merck’s participation and thought leadership will greatly enhance the practice of corporate supplier diversity going forward,” said BDR President and CEO Sharon Patterson.

ABOUT THE BILLION DOLLAR ROUNDTABLE

The Billion Dollar Roundtable, created in 2001, is a non-profit organization made up of 27 Fortune-level corporations that each spend \$1 billion or more annually on a Tier 1 basis on supplier diversity. The BDR recognizes and celebrates corporate members that achieve this status and promotes and shares best practices in supply-chain diversity excellence. BDR member companies review and discuss issues, challenges and strategies related to supplier diversity as a means to advance supply-chain opportunities for both corporations and diverse suppliers. The BDR is publisher of the title “Supplier Diversity Best Practices: Building Excellence to Improve the Supply Chain Matrix.” For more information about the BDR, go to <https://www.billiondollaroundtable.org/>.