



Merz Pharmaceuticals Celebrates 100 years of Meeting Unmet Medical Needs

GREENSBORO, N.C., March 2008 – In March 1908, at the young age of twenty-four, Friedrich Merz established his first pharmaceutical production facility in Frankfurt: The “Chemische Fabrik Merz & Co”. Today, Merz is an internationally successful research-based company with over 2,000 employees around the world and proven expertise in the fields of dermatology, neurology and psychiatry.

This month, Merz Pharmaceuticals, LLC, a North American-based division of Merz and a specialty pharmaceutical company dedicated to addressing patients' needs in the field of dermatology and neurology, and its employees, will celebrate the start of their parent company's centenary year along with their counterparts in Frankfurt. Ceremonies will provide insights into the company's history as well as the future of medicine.

About Merz Pharmaceuticals, LLC:

A specialty pharmaceutical company, Merz Pharmaceuticals, LLC was established in 1995 and is responsible for the North American introduction of products developed within the global Merz organization. Specifically, Merz is dedicated to meeting unmet medical needs with innovative healthcare solutions that improve self-esteem and quality of life. Merz proudly distributes Naftin[®] (naftifine HCl 1%) and several non-prescription products, including Mederma[®] Skin Care for Scars[™], the #1 doctor- and pharmacist-recommended product for scars as well as new Mederma[®] Cream plus SPF 30 and Mederma[®] for Kids[™], the #1 pediatrician-recommended product for children's scars; Appearex[®], the #1 dermatologist-recommended product for strengthening nails; and Aqua Glycolic[®], an alpha hydroxy acid-based skin care system.

About Merz – Worldwide:

Merz is known worldwide for its development of original compounds and formulations for medical professionals and consumers in 90 countries.

Globally, Merz is a leader in research and development of pharmaceuticals for the treatment of neurological and psychological disorders as well as for aesthetic dermatology, including best-in-class products for the treatment of wrinkles and aging skin, hair loss and acne.

Merz Pharmaceuticals, LLC
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Merz – A History of Meeting Unmet Needs:

Friedrich Merz had a good eye for the needs of his fellow men. He wanted to do things better and, above all, differently from others. This guiding principle formed the basis of an impressive company success story. Only a few years after founding the company, Friedrich Merz developed the first-ever topical contraceptive, Patentex, he created new possibilities for the use of therapeutic salves, and together with his brother George, he founded the writing instruments company Merz + Krell, which is now known worldwide by the name of Senator. With the Merz Spezial Dragees, he injected new life into active ingredient cosmetics, and with tetesept[®], he established a powerful brand in the field of self-medication.

“An entrepreneurial spirit of innovation, a great will to implement his ideas, a wide range of interests and self-confidence in his own abilities” were what characterised Friedrich Merz, says Dr. Jochen Hückmann, Shareholders’ Council and grandson of the company’s founder.

Since the 1970s, the company has increasingly pushed the introduction of prescription pharmaceuticals, such as those for the treatment of Parkinson’s or elevated blood lipids. For years, Merz has been experiencing dynamic growth with particular expertise in the treatment of neurological and psychiatric diseases, as well as in the field of aesthetic dermatology. The company’s own scientists have been able to achieve remarkable success in the area of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s. With Memantine, Merz developed the world’s first approved medication for the treatment of moderate to severe cases of Alzheimer’s dementia.

For more information:

You can find further information about the history of the company and the anniversary, as well as extensive image material at www.merz.com/press/photos.