

**Merz Honored Nationally as One of the 50 Best Places to Work** *SHRM and GPTWI Rank Merz in Top 10 "Best Small Companies to Work for in America"*

**GREENSBORO, N.C., June 29, 2004** -- Merz Pharmaceuticals has been named among the top 10 Best Small Companies to Work for in America. The list was announced on June 28th before 12,000 human resource (HR) professionals at the Society for Human Resource Management's (SHRM) 56th Annual Conference & Exposition in New Orleans. Merz is the top ranked pharmaceutical company among the small companies recognized, and the only North Carolina company to be ranked in the Top 50 Best Small & Medium Companies.

This year marks the launch of the list, which ranks the top 25 small and top 25 medium companies in America that have used smart people management strategies to develop a strong trust between employees and management. The organizations, ranging in size from 50 to 999 employees, were announced by SHRM and selected and ranked by the Great Place to Work® Institute (GPTWI) based on the results of a randomly distributed employee opinion survey. Each evaluated company was given a score based on employees' responses to a detailed questionnaire about the organizations' workplace cultures.

The winning organizations will appear in the July issue of HR Magazine, the Society's flagship publication, available at [www.shrm.org/hrmagazine](http://www.shrm.org/hrmagazine) and also listed on the GPTWI Web site at [www.greatplacetowork.com](http://www.greatplacetowork.com).

Over the past three years increases in both revenue and employment have more than doubled at Merz Pharmaceuticals. "This recognition by leading human resource professionals and the GPTWI confirms that we are on the right track," said Terry Conrad, Merz president and CEO. "The award reflects upon our commitment to building a positive work environment in a rapidly growing company."

"Being a top employer is critical to long-term growth and success,"

said SHRM President and CEO, Susan R. Meisinger, SPHR. "Too often only large organizations receive credit for great people practices. SHRM is very proud to show that smaller organizations can and do compete for top talent and may even have added flexibility or innovation to help employees perform well while loving their jobs."

GPTWI cofounder Robert Levering said, "The companies on this list set the standards for all workplaces. They show that companies can become successful by creating an environment where employees trust their management, have pride in their work and have positive relationships with their coworkers."

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. Representing more than 185,000 individual members, the Society's mission is both to serve human resource management professionals and to advance the profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM currently has more than 500 affiliated chapters and members in more than 100 countries.

GPTWI is a research and management consultancy headquartered in San Francisco with affiliate offices in 25 other countries throughout the world. The organization produces other "Best Companies to Work for" lists, including Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work for"©, which recognizes employers with 1,000 or more employees.

Merz Pharmaceuticals is a specialty pharmaceutical company dedicated to addressing patients' unmet medical needs with innovative health care solutions that improve self-esteem and quality of life. Merz Pharmaceuticals produces the prescription antifungal, Naftin® and several over-the-counter products including Mederma® Skin Care for Scars™, a topical gel that helps minimize the appearance of scars, Appearex®, an oral nail therapy, and Aqua Glycolic®, an alpha hydroxy acid-based skin care system. Merz is known worldwide for its development of original compounds and formulations sold to medical professionals and consumers in 90 countries.

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