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Press release

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A breakthrough for anti-aging cosmetics: Merck presents a new generation of peptides

Darmstadt, March 18, 2010 – Merck KGaA, a leading manufacturer of cosmetic ingredients, has developed RonaCare® Cyclopeptide-5, an innovation for anti-aging products. Thanks to its cyclic design, the revolutionary peptide is capable of reactivating the decelerated repair processes of mature skin and stimulating its natural regeneration.

A unique design mimics natural regeneration

As endogenous protein building blocks, peptides have proved their value in nature as reliable messenger substances, and they play a key role, for example, in natural wound healing. The new Merck product known as RonaCare® Cyclopeptide-5 is a tailor-made active ingredient for anti-aging cosmetics. The intelligent, highly selective peptide biologically mimics the natural regeneration processes of the skin and ensures smooth signal transmission between the cells and their environment. The active ingredient functions here like a precise key that activates certain skin cell receptors, thereby stimulating cell renewal. Its cyclic molecular structure ensures optimum stability and efficacy in the skin. The appearance of lines and wrinkles is reduced after just brief use. The skin becomes significantly more supple, elastic and firm.

RonaCare® Cyclopeptide-5 is the world's first cyclic peptide for the cosmetics industry. Thanks to its tailor-made design, the active ingredient displays high stability and high selectivity for its biological target site.

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Merck KGaA

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Press release

Studies confirm convincing age-defying efficacy

RonaCare[®] Cyclopeptide-5 reduces the effects of natural skin aging as proven by scientific studies. For example, the peptide protects the skin against degradation caused by enzymes such as collagenase and elastase. At the same time, the active ingredient stimulates crucial endogenous proteins such as laminin, collagen and fibulin, which provide for a stable cell structure. User studies confirm skin smoothing activity after only short application times.

More product information offered by Merck can be found at www.merck4cosmetics.com.

Merck is a leading manufacturer of ingredients for the cosmetics industry. Apart from decorative effect pigments, the company offers customers functional skin care and protection solutions. In particular, effect pigments and functional products are used in many cosmetic products and packaging in order to lend color, luster, gloss and other effects and to strengthen brand identity. Merck offers a wide range of active ingredients used in skin care cosmetics to protect the skin against UV radiation and premature aging.

All Merck press releases are distributed via e-mail at the same time they become available on the Merck website: Please go to <http://www.newsabo.merck.de> to register online, change your selection or discontinue this service.

Merck is a global pharmaceutical and chemical company with total revenues of € 7.7 billion in 2009, a history that began in 1668, and a future shaped by approximately 33,000 employees in 61 countries. Merck's success is characterized by innovations from entrepreneurial employees. Merck's operating activities come under the umbrella of Merck KGaA, in which the Merck family holds an approximately 70% interest and shareholders own the remaining approximately 30%. In 1917, the U.S. subsidiary Merck & Co. was appropriated and has been an independent company ever since.