We are pleased to report that 2002 was a year of significant progress in establishing medical excellence as one of the world's top pharmaceutical companies. We achieved strong financial results in 2002 despite the entry of generic competition in the USA to Canada. One of our major products. Our progress stems from the group's key strengths, a broadly based produce portfolio, strong financial capability and a promising early stage pipeline of products. We have built on each of these four attributes in 2002 and we are confident that they will help medical excellence to continue to deliver success in the future. While achieving business success it is essential that we demonstrate to all our stakeholder around the world how we conduct our business.

We conduct our business with integrity and continue to make a positive contribution to society. We delivered a very solid financial performance in 2002. In a challenging operating environment. Pharmaceutical sales grew 8 per cent to nearly 18 billion pounds and US pharmaceuticals grew 13 per percent despite generic competition to Canada. We demonstrated continued financial strength with total sales up 7 per cent and trading profit up 15 percent. There were also strong performances from our key therapy areas including central nervous system, respiratory anti virals and vaccines. Our business performance earnings per share grew delivering on our guidance and demonstrating the continued financial strength that will provide the group with a sound platform for the future.

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