

[] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. *See* Instruction 1(b).

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| Name and Address of Reporting Person * | | | | 2. | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | | | | | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Seidman C | hristine I | E | | M | [er | ck & C | o., Inc | . [M | RK |] | | | oncaole) | | | | |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) | | | | 3. | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) | | | | | | Y) | | X Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) | | | | |
| MERCK & CO., INC., 2000 | | | | | 12/31/2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GALLOPING HILL ROAD (Street) | | | 4. | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY) | | | | | | DD/YYYY | 6. Individual | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) | | | | | |
| KENILWORTH, NJ 07033 (City) (State) (Zip) | | | | | | | | | | | | | X _ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | |
| | | | Table I | - Non-De | riva | ıtive Secu | ırities A | cquir | ed, D | isposed | of, or B | eneficially Own | ed | | | | |
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | | | Trans. Date | | | 3. Trans. Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acq or Disposed of (I (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | or | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | or Indirect (I) (Instr. | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | Code | V | Amo | unt (D) | Price | | 100 | | 4) D | | | |
| | Ta | ıble II - Dei | rivative S | Securities | Bei | | | | • | | | , options, conve | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Trans. Date | 3A. Deeme Execution Date, if any | Code | 5. Number of Derivative Secu Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5 | | Securities A) or of (D) | ecurities Expira (D) | | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned | Form of Derivative Security: | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exerc | cisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | | |
| Phantom Stock | <u>(1)</u> | 12/31/2021 | | A | 212.030 | | 3 | <u>(2)</u> | | <u>(2)</u> | Commo Stock | | \$76.64 | 7105.0003 (3) | D | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- **(1)** 1-for-1
- (2) Phantom stock units are to be settled 100% in cash upon reporting person's termination of service in accordance with a distribution schedule elected pursuant to the terms of the Plan for Deferred Payment of Directors' Compensation.
- (3) Holdings include shares acquired in dividend reinvestment transactions.

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|--|--|--|
| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | | |
| Seidman Christine E MERCK & CO., INC. 2000 GALLOPING HILL ROAD KENILWORTH, NJ 07033 | X | | | | | | |

Signatures

/s/ Kelly E. W. Grez as Attorney-in-Fact for Christine E. Seidman

1/4/2022

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

| Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number. |
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