

FORM 4

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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**

Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10.

**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

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | |
| Smart Dalton E. III | | | Merck & Co., Inc. [MRK] | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) SVP Fin. - Global Controller | | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) | | |
| 126 EAST LINCOLN AVENUE | | | 2/4/2026 | | | | | |
| (Street) | | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY) | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | |
| RAHWAY, NJ 07065 | | | | | | | | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | | | | | | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Trans. Date | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 3. Trans. Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 2/4/2026 | | M | | 4,000 | A | \$62.07 | 14,604.816 | D | |
| Common Stock | 2/4/2026 | | S | | 4,000 | D | \$119.675 | 10,604.816 | D | |
| Common Stock | 2/4/2026 | | S | | 2,400 | D | \$119.675 | 8,204.816 | D | |

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Trans. Date | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Trans. Code (Instr. 8) | | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|-----|---|-----------------|--|----------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$62.07 | 2/4/2026 | | M | | 4,000 | | 5/5/2018 (1) | 5/4/2027 | Common Stock | 4,000 | \$0 | 8,130 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The option became exercisable in equal installments on 5/5/2018, 5/5/2019 and 5/5/2020.

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Smart Dalton E. III 126 EAST LINCOLN AVENUE RAHWAY, NJ 07065 | | | SVP Fin. - Global Controller | |

Signatures

/s/ Kelly E. W. Grez, attorney-in-fact for Dalton E. Smart, III 2/6/2026

**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.