

PHARMACIA CORP /DE/
Form DEFA14A
November 14, 2002

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SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the
Commission Only (as Permitted by
Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement Definitive Additional Materials Soliciting Material
Pursuant to (S)240.14a-11(c) or (S)240.14a-12

Pharmacia Corporation
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

\$125 per Exchange Act Rules 0-11(c)(1)(ii), 14a-6(i)(1), 14a-6(i)(2) or Item 22(a)(2) of Schedule 14A.

\$500 per each party to the controversy pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 14a-6(i)(3).

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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Notes:

The following script, in Swedish and English, was given to certain employees of Pharmacia in Sweden for use in answering questions raised in telephone calls from holders of Swedish depository receipts in Pharmacia.

**INFORMATION TO HOLDERS OF SWEDISH DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS IN PHARMACIA CORPORATION WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED MERGER WITH PFIZER INC.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

November 13, 2002

Pharmacia s call center 020 46 00 46

What is the task of the call center?

The task of Pharmacia s information center is to answer all questions concerning voting, the merger and its practical consequences. Questions concerning Pfizer and EquiServe, that are not addressed within this document, should be referred to Pfizer s information center, telephone number 020-130 12 00. If dialing from outside of Sweden please use the following number +46 8 519 06 259.

What type of questions does the information center answer:

Inform holders of SDRs of their options at the voting

Help holders of SDRs with their proxy card

Help holders of SDRs to understand the information material

Pharmacia s call center does not advise holders of SDRs. We capsule existing documentation, answer questions and provide information in the run-up to and during the merger.

For legal reasons, Pharmacia s call center does not answer questions concerning Pfizer. All questions concerning Pfizer are therefore referred to Pfizer s shareholder service line at 020 130 12 00. If dialing from outside of Sweden please use the following number +46 8 519 06 259.

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Journalists

All journalists will be referred to Marianne Bäärnhielm, Pharmacia's Director of External Relations, Public Affairs and Communications.

Marianne Bäärnhielm:

Telephone: +46 (0)8 695 72 82 or +46 (0)70 319 50 60

E-mail: marianne.baarnhielm@pharmacia.com

Questions outside the realm of the Q&A template

Question that cannot be answered by the call center will be referred to Katja Margell

Katja Margell:

Telephone: +46 (0)8 695 41 71

E-mail: katja-cons.margell@pharmacia.com

Replacement of information material

Holders of SDRs of Pharmacia who have misplaced information material may contact Pharmacia's shareholder service at 020 46 00 46 or via e-mail:

aktieagarservice@pharmacia.com

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STEP 1 VOTING (1)

What have holders of SDRs of Pharmacia received by mail?

The following documents were first mailed to holders of SDRs of Pharmacia on November 5, 2002:

Proxy card a power of attorney that resembles a ballot.

Holders of SDRs of Pharmacia that cannot be present at Pharmacia's special shareholders' meeting on December 9, 2002 in Wilmington, Delaware USA, may cast their ballots by mail. Shareholders can register to attend the special shareholders' meeting by calling 020 46 00 46.

Reply envelope

Joint proxy statement

A joint proxy statement is a comprehensive document containing information about the companies as well as rationale for voting in line with the board's recommendation.

Informational brochure summary of the joint proxy statement and information specifically intended for holders of SDRs of Pharmacia. The information brochure is available both in Swedish and English.

Letter from Pfizer Information from Pfizer's Swedish CEO, Lars Gunneflo.

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STEP 1 VOTING (2)

What should you, as a holder of SDRs of Pharmacia, do now?

1. Familiarize yourself with the proposed merger read the information you have received!
2. Take a stance fill in your proxy card!
3. Send in your vote so that it will be registered!

Read!

Read through the information that you received and familiarize yourself with the matter at hand. The letter and information brochure summarize the relevant details.

Vote!

You as a holder of SDRs of Pharmacia must now decide whether you believe Pfizer should be allowed to merge with Pharmacia. If the merger is completed, holders of SDRs of Pharmacia will receive 1.4 newly issued shares of Pfizer common stock for each SDR of Pharmacia.

Do you think Pfizer should be allowed to merge with Pharmacia?

Check the For box on the proxy card!

Do you think Pfizer should not be allowed to merge with Pharmacia?

Check the Against box on the proxy card!

Mail your proxy card!

Mail your proxy card in the enclosed reply envelope. Your vote must be received and registered no later than 10 a.m. (CET) on December 9, 2002. All votes are registered electronically and transmitted to the special shareholders meeting on December 9, 2002.

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STEP 1 VOTING (3)

Would you like a new proxy card?

You may order a new proxy card from WM-data at **+46 8 670 72 08**

Would you like to change your vote?

If you would like to change your vote you may do so by mailing a new proxy card to WM-data (see address below) before the final registration day.

Address

Mail your proxy card to the following address if you are not using the enclosed reply envelope:

Pharmacia
c/o WM-data
Box 27030
102 51 Stockholm
Sweden

**Remember to mail in your proxy card in time. It must be received by
Pharmacia/WM-data no later than 10 a.m. (CET) on December 9, 2002!**

**If you do not vote, it is the same as a vote against adoption of the merger agreement
between Pfizer and Pharmacia.**

INFORMATION TO HOLDERS OF SWEDISH DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS IN PHARMACIA CORPORATION WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED MERGER WITH PFIZER INC. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

November 13, 2002

Q&A: The merger (1)

Summary:

The boards of pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Pharmacia have approved a merger that will form the world's largest pharmaceutical company. If the merger is completed, holders of SDRs of Pharmacia will receive 1.4 newly issued shares of Pfizer common stock for each SDR of Pharmacia.

Holders of SDRs of Pharmacia have received an information pack containing the joint proxy statement, an informational brochure about the proposed merger, a proxy card, a reply envelope and a letter from Pfizer. Holders of SDRs of Pharmacia are to vote on the merger agreement between Pfizer and Pharmacia. Proxy cards must be received by WM-data no later than 10 a.m. (CET) on December 9, 2002. If you do not vote, it is the same as a vote against adoption of the merger agreement. On December 9, 2002 Pharmacia is holding a special shareholders' meeting to vote on the proposal to adopt the merger agreement between Pfizer and Pharmacia.

Pfizer stock will be traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Pfizer currently has no intention of listing its shares on Stockholmsbörsen or directly registering its shares with VPC.

It is the intention that holders of formerly VPC-registered SDRs of Pharmacia, whose holding is not registered in a custodian account, will receive their shares in Pfizer in a newly opened account with EquiServe, Pfizer's American share registrar. Holders whose SDRs are registered with a bank or other nominee will not automatically be provided an EquiServe account. Their exchange of shares will instead be handled in accordance with the policies and practices of each nominee.

Holders of SDRs of Pharmacia who do not wish to have their Pfizer shares and fractional shares registered with EquiServe should contact a bank or nominee in sufficient time before the closing date, and instruct them to transfer their holdings of SDRs of Pharmacia from their VP account into a newly opened or existing custodian account. The exchange of shares will be made in accordance with the policies and practices of each nominee.

More information about the exchange of SDRs of Pharmacia for newly issued shares of Pfizer common stock will be made available as soon as possible after the special meeting.

INFORMATION TO HOLDERS OF SWEDISH DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS IN PHARMACIA CORPORATION WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED MERGER WITH PFIZER INC. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

November 13, 2002

Q&A: The merger (2)

Why should I vote FOR to the merger?

At Pharmacia's call center, we provide information regarding voting, the merger and its practical consequences, not opinions. We can provide you a summarized version of arguments presented in the information material you received.

When it comes to analysis of the transaction, we recommend that you contact your bank or other nominee.

Pharmacia's board of directors believes the merger is advisable, fair and in the best interest of shareholders and holders of SDRs and recommends that they vote FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

Why should I vote AGAINST the merger?

At Pharmacia's call center, we provide information regarding voting, the merger and its practical consequences, not opinions. If you have read the information material and come to the conclusion that it would not be wise for Pfizer and Pharmacia to merge, you may vote against the merger.

More information about Pfizer

For further information about Pfizer, we recommend that you visit its Swedish Web site at www.pfizer.se or its global Web site at www.pfizer.com. You can also contact Pfizer at +46 (0)8 519 062 00.

More information about Pharmacia

For further information about Pharmacia, we recommend that you visit its Swedish Web site at www.pharmacia.se or its global Web site at www.pharmacia.com.

How is Pfizer's business performing?

Pfizer has continued to perform well in 2002, thereby strengthening its position as the global leader in pharmaceuticals. Sales improved by roughly 10 percent to 16.5 billion dollars (SEK155bn) in the first six months of 2002. In 2001, the group reported sales of 32.3 billion dollars (SEK304bn at 9.40 kronor to the dollar). On November 5, 2002, Pfizer was trading at 32.6 dollars a share.

**INFORMATION TO HOLDERS OF SWEDISH DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS IN PHARMACIA
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FACTS ABOUT THE SHARE EXCHANGE

The process at a glance

December 6, 2002 Pfizer's special shareholders' meeting
Pfizer's shareholders will vote on a share issue for the purpose of exchanging them for shares of Pharmacia.

December 9, 2002 Pharmacia's special shareholders' meeting
Shareholders of Pharmacia will vote on the proposed merger with Pfizer.

Mid-December 2002 Holders of SDRs of Pharmacia receive an information pack from Pfizer
If the special shareholders' meetings approve the merger, the next step in the merger will begin, i.e., the share exchange.

The information pack from Pfizer, which will be mailed in mid-December 2002, outlines the process step by step to make the share exchange as simple as possible. For example, a guide is provided that guides holders of SDRs of Pharmacia through various forms etc. Further information about Pfizer's reinvestment program will be provided in Pfizer's information pack, which will be mailed in mid-December 2002. Provided you hold your Pfizer shares in an account with EquiServe, it is the intention that you will be offered the possibility to sell your shares without commission via EquiServe for a period through the end of March 2003. Subsequently you can sell your shares via EquiServe at market price with an additional cost of 15 dollars per sale and 12 cents per share.

**INFORMATION TO HOLDERS OF SWEDISH DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS IN PHARMACIA CORPORATION WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED MERGER WITH PFIZER INC.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

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TOP TEN Q&As

What is Pfizer?

Pfizer is the world's largest pharmaceutical company and world leader in pharmaceutical research.

What do I do now?

Read through the information, form an opinion and if you wish to vote and mail in your proxy card!

What are my options?

Your options are:

- 1 vote in favor of adopting the merger agreement between Pfizer and Pharmacia
- 2 vote against adopting the merger agreement between Pfizer and Pharmacia
- 3 do not vote at all (the same as voting against adoption of the merger agreement)

When must I reply?

For your vote to count, you must mail the proxy card so that it will be registered electronically by WM-data prior to 10 a.m. (CET) on December 9, 2002.

How do I go about selling my SDRs of Pharmacia?

Up to the final trading day, which at present is expected to be by the end of 2002, you may sell your SDRs of Pharmacia by contacting your bank or other nominee.

After your SDRs of Pharmacia have been exchanged for shares of Pfizer common stock, you will be able to sell them through your bank or other nominee, or via EquiServe if your shares are directly registered with EquiServe. Via EquiServe you may sell your shares of Pfizer common stock commission-free until the end of March 2003.

Will I lose my SDRs of Pharmacia if I do nothing at all?

If you choose not to act, it is the intention that your SDRs of Pharmacia will be automatically exchanged for shares of Pfizer common stock.

Will Pharmacia disappear?

Initially, Pharmacia will function as a wholly owned subsidiary of Pfizer. Certain parts of Pharmacia's and Pfizer's operations will be merged.

How does this affect my tax return?

If you are not holding your SDRs of Pharmacia at a bank or other nominee, you will be required to declare your shareholding, dividends and trades to the tax authorities. EquiServe does not report your holdings, dividends or disposals to the Swedish tax authorities. For further information see the answer to question "How will I declare these Shares? What will the tax consequences be?" under the Section *Share Exchange*.

When will the merger be completed?

The merger is currently expected to be completed by the end of 2002, provided the shareholders of Pharmacia and Pfizer and regulatory authorities approve the merger and all conditions are met.

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How much will this cost me?

The merger itself will not cost the holders of SDRs of Pharmacia anything. Pharmacia and Pfizer take care of the costs of the merger.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q&A Voting

Do I have to read the information material?

The information material gives you information on what will be done with your SDRs of Pharmacia should the merger agreement be approved.

When is the final voting day?

You must mail your proxy card early enough for it to be registered by WM-data at 10 a.m. (CET) on December 9, 2002.

What are my options?

You can vote For to the merger

check the For box on your proxy card

You can vote Against to the merger

check the Against box on your proxy card

If you do not vote it is a vote against the merger.

What happens if I do not mail my proxy card?

If you do not mail your proxy card, it will be the same as voting against the adoption of the merger agreement between Pfizer and Pharmacia.

INFORMATION TO HOLDERS OF SWEDISH DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS IN PHARMACIA CORPORATION WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED MERGER WITH PFIZER INC. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

November 13, 2002

Q&A: SHARE EXCHANGE (1)

My SDRs of Pharmacia are held in a VP account what does the share exchange mean to me?

It is the intension that holders of formerly VPC-registered SDRs of Pharmacia, whose holding is not registered in a custodian account, will receive their shares in Pfizer in a newly opened account with EquiServe, Pfizer's American share registrar.

My SDRs of Pharmacia are held in a custodian account what does the share exchange mean to me?

Holders of SDRs of Pharmacia whose holdings already are registered in a custodian account will not automatically be provided a newly opened account with EquiServe. The newly issued shares of Pfizer common stock will instead be registered in a custodian account in accordance with the practices and routines of the bank, Aktiesparinvest or other nominee.

If your Pharmacia SDRs are held in a custodian account, the bank, Aktiesparinvest or other nominee will file your tax forms with the tax authorities. They also handle the currency conversion of dividends and proceeds, often at no extra charge.

How will I declare these shares? What will be the tax consequences?

For individuals resident in Sweden, the tax basis of Pharmacia SDRs will automatically be rolled-over to the Pfizer shares received. Normally, there is thus no need for such individuals to report the merger in their tax return. However, any sale of fractional shares or shares in Pfizer must be reported.

All holders of SDRs of Pharmacia will receive additional information after the shareholders meeting. For shareholders registered with EquiServe it is important to fill in the form regarding your tax residence to avoid double taxation on future dividend payments and sales.

In addition, these shareholders must report their holdings, dividends and disposal of Pfizer shares to the Swedish tax authorities. Limited liability companies and others must report the merger in their tax return but may claim deferred capital gains taxation.

What will happen to my deferred tax amount when I receive Pfizer shares?

You may continue to defer this amount.

Will the share exchange result in a new deferred amount?

No, under the new rules that are applicable for individuals, the tax basis of the SDRs in Pharmacia (SEK428 if you participated in the previous merger) will be rolled-over to the Pfizer shares received. These provisions are, however, not applicable for limited liability companies and others who instead can apply for deferred capital gains taxation.

INFORMATION TO HOLDERS OF SWEDISH DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS IN PHARMACIA CORPORATION WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED MERGER WITH PFIZER INC. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Q&A SHARE EXCHANGE (2)

What is a deferred tax amount?

Under the old tax provisions in respect of share-for-share exchanges, that were applicable in the merger between Pharmacia & Upjohn and Monsanto in 2000, the shareholders could apply for deferred capital gains taxation. The shareholders had to compute the capital gain (the difference between the tax basis of the shares in Pharmacia & Upjohn disposed of and the fair market value of the shares in Pharmacia Corporation received) but could, after request, be granted deferred capital gains taxation. The deferred tax amount was allocated to the shares received and will be taxable inter alia if the shares are sold (except in a share-for-share exchange) or if the shareholder so claims.

The deferred tax amount is thus deferred tax from a previous share-for-share exchange and will be rolled-over to the Pfizer shares received, see the tax section in the information brochure.

It should be noted that the new provisions in respect of roll-over relief do not result in any deferred tax amount. However, the new rules are only applicable for individuals. Other shareholders, for instance limited liability companies, must still apply for deferred capital gains taxation.

When will the forms arrive how will I know what to fill in?

In mid-December 2002, Pfizer will be mailing complete information about the share exchange, including which forms should be filled in and how. If your SDRs of Pharmacia are held at a bank or other nominee, these institutions will handle the share exchange in accordance with their respective practices and routines and they will inform you about which forms you need to complete.

Will Pfizer translate corporate information into Swedish?

Holders of SDRs in Pharmacia will receive most of the information regarding the merger in Swedish until the closing of the merger. Holders of SDRs who become Pfizer shareholders will receive information in English thereafter, to the extent and in the same way that other shareholders in Pfizer receive information.

I have 59 SDRs of Pharmacia. How many Pfizer shares will I receive?

If you multiply the number of SDRs by 1.4 you will get the number of Pfizer shares that you will own after the share exchange. In your case, you would own fractional shares, as you would be entitled to receive 82.6 shares of Pfizer common stock. You may hold fractional shares at EquiServe.

I thought that I owned shares of Pharmacia. What are depository receipts?

Depository receipts are not literally shares, but function like a receipt for shares held by a bank, in this case SEB.

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Q&A SHARE EXCHANGE (3)

When will I know how I fill in the various forms, such as the tax form?

Pfizer will keep you continually updated during the course of the share exchange direct or indirectly through your bank or other nominee if your holding is registered in a custodian account.

You will receive complete information on how to fill in various forms well in advance of their due dates.

When will the merger be completed?

Pharmacia and Pfizer currently expect to complete the merger by the end of 2002, provided that the merger agreement is approved by the companies' respective shareholders' meetings and regulatory authorities and all closing conditions are met.

How will I be able to follow Pfizer's share price?

On Pfizer's Web site, www.pfizer.com, or on the New York Stock Exchange's web site, www.nyse.com, under the ticker symbol PFE.

How great is the risk that antitrust authorities will halt the deal?

Pfizer and Pharmacia expect to obtain all necessary approvals before the end of 2002.

However, obtaining required approvals and satisfying closing conditions may delay or prevent completion of the merger.

How will this affect Pharmacia's share price?

If you would like analysis or guidance concerning the share performance of Pharmacia and Pfizer, we recommend that you contact a bank or other nominee.

All other questions pertaining to the share exchange, including the ones listed below, are to be answered by Pfizer's call center at phone number 020-130 12 00.

What happens if I as a holder of SDRs do not fill in the forms provided by EquiServe?

Why will Pfizer not be listed on the exchange in Stockholm?

How will Swedish investors be able to trade shares of Pfizer common stock if there is no listing in Stockholm?

Must I, who have my SDRs of Pharmacia registered with VPC, re-register my SDRs with EquiServe? What can I do if I do not want to register my SDRs with EquiServe?

What should I do if my SDRs of Pharmacia are being held in a custodian account, and I want to register them with EquiServe?

What happens if I want to sell my shares after EquiServe's commission-free period?

Will there be a central sale of fractional shares of Pfizer?

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How will I receive my Pfizer dividends?

I only own a few shares. Will there be any money left after exchanging dollars to Swedish kronor following a sale?

How will non-English speakers be able to buy and sell their shares?

When will the shares be registered at EquiServe and when can I begin trading my Pfizer shares?

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Q&A EQUISERVE

Questions regarding EquiServe, like the ones listed below, are to be answered by Pfizer's call center at phone number 020-130 12 00.

The key benefits of EquiServe are

Some aspects of holding Pfizer shares via EquiServe are beyond Pfizer's control

Special rules for the share exchange Pharmacia - Pfizer

Further information about EquiServe

SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT

This release contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on management's current expectation and are naturally subject to uncertainty and changes in circumstances. Actual results may vary materially from the expectations contained herein. The forward-looking statements contained herein include statements about future financial operating results and benefits of the pending merger between Pfizer Inc. and Pharmacia Corp. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described herein include: the inability to obtain shareholder or regulatory approvals; actions of the U.S., foreign and local governments; the inability to successfully integrate the businesses of Pfizer Inc. and Pharmacia Corp.; costs related to the merger; the inability to achieve cost-cutting synergies resulting from the merger; changing consumer or marketplace trends; and the general economic environment. Neither Pfizer Inc. nor Pharmacia Corp. is under any obligation to (and expressly disclaims any such obligation to) update or alter its forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

Readers are also urged to carefully review and consider the disclosures in Pfizer's and Pharmacia's various Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings, including but not limited to Pfizer's and Pharmacia's Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001, Pfizer's and Pharmacia's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2002, and Pfizer's and Pharmacia's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2002.

This release may be deemed to be solicitation material in respect of Pfizer's proposed merger with Pharmacia. On October 17, 2002, Pfizer filed an amended registration statement on Form S-4, with the SEC. On October 22, 2002, Pfizer filed a joint proxy statement/prospectus for Pfizer and Pharmacia, with the SEC. The joint proxy statement/prospectus was first mailed to Pharmacia shareholders on or about October 25, 2002. **INVESTORS AND SECURITYHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT, THE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED OR THAT WILL BE FILED WITH THE SEC WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.** Investors and securityholders will be able to receive the joint proxy statement/prospectus and other documents free of charge at the SEC's web site, www.sec.gov, Pfizer securityholders will be able to receive the definitive version of the joint proxy statement/prospectus and other documents free of charge by requesting them in writing from Pfizer Inc., 235 East 42nd Street, New York, New York 10017, Attention: Investor Relations, or by telephone: (212) 573-2688, and Pharmacia securityholders will be able to receive the definitive version of the joint proxy statement/prospectus and other documents free of charge by requesting them in writing from Pharmacia Investor Relations at 100 Route 206 North, Peapack, New Jersey 07977, or by telephone at (908) 901-8000.

Pfizer and Pharmacia and their respective directors and executive officers and other members of management and employees may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies in respect of the proposed transaction. Information about the directors and executive officers of Pfizer and their ownership of Pfizer shares is set forth in the proxy statement for Pfizer's 2002 annual meeting of shareholders. Information regarding the interests of Pharmacia's directors and executive officers in the proposed merger is set forth in the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus, filed on October 22, 2002, by Pfizer that was first mailed to Pharmacia shareholders on or about October 25, 2002.