

Daredevil Recreates 'Up,' Crosses Ocean for Charity

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## Merck spent \$2.16M in 3Q lobbying Congress

### WASHINGTON

Pharmaceutical company Merck & Co. boosted its spending on federal government lobbying in the third quarter, as it focused on drug importation issues and the implementation of the health care overhaul among several other topics.

The Whitehouse Station, N.J., company spent \$2.16 million in the three months that ended Sept. 30. That represents a 39-percent increase from the same quarter last year and more than double its total spending in this year's second quarter.

Merck lobbied Congress on a rule that would task a federally-sponsored panel with comparing the effectiveness of different drugs, devices and medical procedures. The effort aims to cut wasteful spending on ineffective treatments. The industry has maintained that any government assessments should not be used to deny coverage of expensive medical technology.

It also lobbied on payment advisory board provisions in the overhaul that Congress passed in March that aims to cover millions of uninsured people. Merck lobbied on a requirement for safety and cost savings certification for any drug importation legislation.

The maker of cholesterol pills Vytorin and Zetia and diabetes pill Januvia lobbied on access to over-the-counter medications, on the renewal and expansion of the research and development tax credit, and the deferral of taxation of foreign earned income.

Merck, a top maker of vaccines for both children and adults, also lobbied on increased funding for national immunization and AIDS drug assistance programs, according to a report filed with the clerk of the House of Representatives.

The company's lobbyists included Eli Joseph, a former assistant in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs, Angela Stewart, former legislative counsel to Sen. John Warner, and Jerome Murray, a former legislative director for Rep. G.K. Butterfield.

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