



## News Release

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### **Merck Launches its Capacity Advancement Program at University of Ghana**

- **Merck supports Diabetes Medical Education and Community Awareness as part of its Capacity Advancement Program in Ghana**

Accra, March 31, 2014 – The German pharmaceutical and chemical company Merck has formed a strategic partnership with University Of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University, Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana, Ghana Medical Association and Ghana National Association of Diabetes in order to contribute to the country’s social and economic development. During his visit to University of Ghana, Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, Chairman of the Executive Board and Family Board of E. Merck KG and member of the Merck family, said: “Merck is pleased to launch the Merck Capacity Advancement Program in Ghana as part of our commitment to providing sustainable access to high-quality health solutions and safe medicines in Africa.”

The Merck Capacity Advancement Program aims at expanding the professional capacity in Africa in the areas of research and development, clinical research, supply chain integrity and efficiency, pharmacovigilance, community awareness and medical education for medical and pharmacy undergraduates, physicians and pharmacists in rural areas.

Elcin Ergun, Executive Vice President and Head of Global Commercial of Merck Serono, explained: “We are fully committed to partner with Governments, Universities, Healthcare institutions and Patients Associations in Ghana and the rest of Africa to develop and deliver solutions to expand healthcare capacities and improve access to health as part of the Merck Capacity Advancement Program. The 5 year program was

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kicked off successfully last year in Kenya, Uganda, Namibia and Mozambique and will further expand to other Sub-Saharan countries in 2014 ”

Dean of School of Medicine, Prof. Jennifer Welbeck, welcomed Merck stating: “University of Ghana is especially delighted to partner with Merck, the world’s oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company, to implement such a noble initiative such as Merck’s Capacity Advancement Program and to associate with other institutions whose overall objectives and goals are directed towards alleviating challenges of emerging diseases such as Diabetes.”

The Dean of the School of Pharmacy applauded Merck for its Capacity Advancement Program. He added: “We welcome initiatives of this kind in our country and look forward to its success to help healthcare providers and patients to have access to safe and high quality health care solutions across Ghana’s rural area.”

Based on its long experience in diabetes management, which began in 1957 with the development of metformin, Merck seeks to raise awareness of diabetes in Africa by educating the public and supporting the healthcare system to prevent, diagnose and manage the condition effectively. As part of the Merck Capacity Advancement Program, more than 1,000 medical students from the universities of Nairobi, Makerere and Namibia will benefit from European-accredited clinical diabetes and chronic diseases management training, which is seeking to equip them with skills to avert the diabetes epidemic. Merck is planning to target 9,000 students by the end of 2018 expanding to more sub-Saharan countries in 2014 such as Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania, Nigeria and Ethiopia.

During his meeting with medical students, Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp said: “Merck is greatly honored to collaborate on this program with our valuable partners in Ghana to improve the standard of diabetes healthcare, medical education and awareness of diabetes among Ghanaians and the African community. The rising numbers of



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diabetics all over the world calls for prioritizing diabetes care and awareness to prevent the disease from turning into an epidemic. The Merck Capacity Advancement Program seeks to improve the healthcare sector in Ghana with special focus on rural areas through educating and empowering those affected by diabetes on how to manage and prevent it.”

The President of Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana Pharm-PSGH, James Ohemeng Kyei emphasized that the PSGH is proud to participate actively in the 5-year Merck Capacity Advancement Program (CAP) which will improve the accessibility and quality of diabetes healthcare in Ghana. He said: “The partnership with Merck to implement the Capacity Advancement Program in Ghana and to support chronic disease healthcare will help us to tackle the ever rising diabetes prevalence rate.”

During the event, Dr. Kwabena Opoku Audsei, President of Ghana Medical Association, said: “Working in partnership with Merck, we have no doubt that we are getting quality, mature and professional partnership.”

The President of Ghana National Association for Diabetes, Elizabeth Esi Denyoh, explained: “There is unknown number of people who died from lack of proper management, coupled with ignorance of the disease in Ghana. Therefore it is an evident that with such support diabetes will be better managed and even preventable as information on the disease spreads across the nation.”

In addition to medical education, research collaboration and community awareness, Merck shall continue to work with partners in Ghana and Africa at large to expand the capacity of professionals in diabetes management through its Capacity Advancement Program.



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