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GSK launches first call for proposals for research in to non-communicable diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa.

GSK today launched the first call for proposals for its Africa NCD Open Lab, to support much-needed scientific research into non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Africa. Up to £4m will be available in this first funding round, to support successful proposals from researchers in Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Ghana, The Gambia, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda and Malawi.

The Africa NCD Open Lab was established by GSK earlier this year, with a commitment of £25m funding over five years, as part of a series of strategic investments in sub-Saharan Africa. In this region, and across developing countries, non-communicable diseases, such as cancer and diabetes, are becoming more prevalent, and we need to learn more about how – and why – these diseases manifest differently in this setting. The Africa NCD Open Lab aims to address this through the creation of an innovative research network that will see GSK scientists collaborate with researchers across Africa on high quality epidemiological, genetic and interventional research, from its hub at GSK's Stevenage R&D facility in the UK. The aim is that this will specifically inform interventions for the prevention and treatment of five priority diseases - cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and chronic respiratory disease – while helping build local expertise and creating a new generation of African NCD experts.

This builds on the success of GSK's Open Lab in Tres Cantos, Spain which provides independent researchers access to GSK facilities, resources and knowledge to help them advance their own research projects into diseases of the developing world such as malaria, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis. Since the Tres Cantos Open Lab was established, 15 projects from world class institutions have been completed, progressing much needed research into diseases of the developing world.

An independent external advisory group, comprising clinical and scientific experts in the field of NCDs, will review applications to the NCD Open Lab, with recommendations for funding based on scientific merit. The group will consist of a majority African membership to ensure that only locally-relevant research is funded.

A second call for proposals in South Africa is planned for early in 2015 which will be launched in collaboration with the Medical Research Councils of South Africa and the UK, with a combined £5m funding.

Dr. Mike Strange, Interim Head of the Africa NCD Open Lab, said: "We believe the highly collaborative research network we're creating through the Africa NCD Open Lab has the potential to dramatically improve understanding of NCDs in Africa – and could ultimately, accelerate the development of new, better medicines to treat these.

"The launch of our first call for proposals is an important milestone for this initiative, and we encourage researchers working in the field of NCDs who are based in the eight eligible countries to consider applying for the funding and expert support available to them through this."

For more information, or to submit a research idea for consideration, please visit www.gsk.com/africa-ncd-openlab.



Notes to editors

- GSK has a long history in the developing world, including the development and trial of new vaccines for malaria and Ebola. Its vaccines are included in immunisation campaigns in 170 countries worldwide and of the 862 million vaccine doses delivered in 2013, more than 80% were shipped for use in developing countries.
- In 2015, GSK will donate its five billionth tablet of albendazole to treat intestinal worms and lymphatic filariasis – part of the company's long-term commitment to tackle neglected tropical diseases which affect people in the world's poorest countries.
- GSK has formed a ground-breaking five-year partnership with Save the Children, to help save the lives of one million children living in the poorest countries in Africa. The partnership combines the resources and capabilities of two organisations to help bring medicines and vaccines to some of the world's poorest children, train thousands of healthcare workers, and seek to alleviate child malnutrition.
- In March 2014, GSK announced a series of targeted investments of up to £130m in Africa over the next five years, designed to address pressing health needs and contribute to long-term business growth.

GSK enquiries:

UK Media enquiries:	David Mawdsley	+44 (0) 20 8047 5502	(London)
	Simon Steel	+44 (0) 20 8047 5502	(London)
	David Daley	+44 (0) 20 8047 5502	(London)
	Catherine Hartley	+44 (0) 20 8047 5502	(London)
	Sarah Spencer	+44 (0) 20 8047 5502	(London)
US Media enquiries:	Juan Carlos Molina	+1 919 483 0471	(North Carolina)
	Bradd Pavur	+1 919 483 0044	(North Carolina)
	Karen Collins	+1 919 483 2527	(North Carolina)
	Melinda Stubbee	+1 919 483 2510	(North Carolina)
	Sarah Alspach	+1 202 715 1048	(Washington, DC)
Analyst/Investor enquiries:	Ziba Shamsi	+44 (0) 20 8047 3289	(London)
	Kirsty Collins (SRI & CG)	+44 (0) 20 8047 5534	(London)
	Tom Curry	+ 1 215 751 5419	(Philadelphia)
	Gary Davies	+44 (0) 20 8047 5503	(London)
	James Dodwell	+44 (0) 20 8047 2406	(London)
	Jeff McLaughlin	+1 215 751 7002	(Philadelphia)

Cautionary statement regarding forward-looking statements

GSK cautions investors that any forward-looking statements or projections made by GSK, including those made in this announcement, are subject to risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. Such factors include, but are not limited to, those described under Item 3.D 'Risk factors' in the company's Annual Report on Form 20-F for 2013.

Registered in England & Wales:
No. 3888792

Registered Office:
980 Great West Road
Brentford, Middlesex
TW8 9GS