Novartis Foundation and partners launch new hypertension program in Ghana

- Community-based Hypertension Improvement Project (ComHIP) is an innovative healthcare model designed to improve hypertension management and control
- Screening and treatment is shifted to the community and technology supports healthcare workers and empowers patient self-management
- More than one quarter of the adult population in Ghana has hypertension, but only 4% of these hypertensive patients have it under control
- Program partners include FHI 360, Ghana Health Service, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, VOTO Mobile and many local partners

Basel, October 29, 2015 – The Novartis Foundation and its partners have begun screening patients in the Community-based Hypertension Improvement Project (ComHIP), a two-year program designed to evaluate the impact of an innovative healthcare model on hypertension management and control in Ghana.

With the innovative healthcare model, the Novartis Foundation and its partners aim to improve the control of hypertension, a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease, by making services more accessible in the community while empowering individuals to manage their hypertension. More than three quarters of deaths from cardiovascular disease take place in low- and middle-income countries.1

“We’ve taken lessons from previous work in infectious disease to create ComHIP, a unique healthcare model that joins together public-private partnerships, community-based healthcare services and technology that supports healthcare workers and drives patient education,” said Peter Lamptey, President Emeritus, FHI 360 and Professor of Non-communicable Diseases, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. “We want to empower the whole community from patients to healthcare workers to local businesses to reduce the burden of hypertension, and – hopefully – to improve the healthcare system overall.”

Carried out in a district close to an urban center in Ghana, ComHIP will shift the point where patients access healthcare from the hospital, which is often distant and crowded, to the community. Local businesses and healthcare workers based in the community will be trained to screen and care for hypertensive patients. Mobile devices and telemedicine will be used to support community nurses in decision making and ensuring seamless connection with community healthcare workers and physicians as needed. In addition, SMS / voice messaging will be used for patient education to reduce risk factors for cardiovascular disease and to support adherence to therapy.

“We are really excited to see ComHIP gain momentum and I am confident the results of the program will help inform policy that improves hypertension care in Ghana at a national level,” said Ann Aerts, Head of the Novartis Foundation. “In addition, the Novartis Foundation’s goal extends beyond Ghana and hypertension. We seek to build
evidence on what type of healthcare delivery models and technologies are effective, and then adapt and apply them to help manage the overall dual burden of infectious and non-communicable diseases that low- and middle-income countries are facing.”

Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are still coping with infectious diseases and maternal and child health issues, while at the same time, the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer has risen dramatically. Almost 70% of all deaths globally are associated with NCDs and four out of five of these deaths occur in LMICs.2

Deaths from hypertension are estimated at 9.4 million people annually globally, which is equivalent to all infectious diseases combined.3 More than a quarter of the adult population in Ghana has hypertension4, but only 4% of these patients have their blood pressure under control.5

The Novartis Foundation is collaborating on ComHIP with FHI 360, the Ghana Health Service, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Centre for Global NCDs, VOTO Mobile, the School of Public Health at the University of Ghana and many local partners in Ghana.

About the Novartis Foundation
The Novartis Foundation is a philanthropic organization pioneering innovative healthcare models that can have a transformational impact on the health of the poorest populations. We work hand-in-hand with our local and global partners to catalyze scalable and sustainable healthcare models to improve access and health outcomes, and to accelerate efforts to eliminate leprosy and malaria by focusing on interventions that aim to interrupt transmission. Everything we do is grounded in evidence and innovation, and our work is a continuous cycle of evaluation, adaptation and application. In 2014, the operational budget for the foundation was CHF 12 million and our programs reached 3.6 million people.

For more information, please visit:
www.novartisfoundation.org
www.youtube.com/novartisfoundation

Novartis Foundation is on Twitter. Sign up to follow @NovartisFDN at https://twitter.com/NovartisFDN

Disclaimer
This press release contains expressed or implied forward-looking statements, including statements that can be identified by terminology such as “launch,” “aim,” “want,” “hopefully,” “will,” “excited,” “confident,” “goal,” “seek,” “pioneering,” “efforts,” or similar expressions. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of the Group regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results expressed or implied by such statements. These expectations could be affected by, among other things, risks and factors referred to in the Risk Factors section of Novartis AG's current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Novartis is providing the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update it in the future.

About Novartis
Novartis provides innovative healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis offers a diversified portfolio to best meet these needs: innovative medicines, eye care and cost-saving generic pharmaceuticals. Novartis is the only global company with leading positions in these areas. In 2014, the Group achieved net sales of USD 58.0 billion, while R&D throughout the Group amounted to approximately USD 9.9 billion (USD 9.6 billion excluding impairment and amortization charges). Novartis Group companies employ approximately 120,000 full-time-equivalent associates. Novartis products are available in
more than 180 countries around the world. For more information, please visit http://www.novartis.com.

Novartis is on Twitter. Sign up to follow @Novartis at http://twitter.com/novartis.

# # #

References

Novartis Media Relations

Central media line : +41 61 324 2200
Eric Althoff: Novartis Global Media Relations
Julie Morrow: Novartis Foundation
+41 61 324 7999 (direct) +41 61 696 2421 (direct)
+41 79 593 4202 (mobile) +41 79 224 5666 (mobile)
eric.althoff@novartis.com julie.morrow@novartis.com
e-mail: media.relations@novartis.com

For Novartis multimedia content, please visit www.thenewsmarket.com/Novartis
For questions about the site or required registration, please contact: journalisthelp@thenewsmarket.com.

Novartis Investor Relations

Central phone: +41 61 324 7944
Samir Shah +41 61 324 7944
Pierre-Michel Bringer +41 61 324 1065
Richard Pulik +1 212 830 2448
Thomas Hungerbuehler +41 61 324 8425
Sloan Pavsner +1 212 830 2417
Isabella Zinck +41 61 324 7188

e-mail: investor.relations@novartis.com
e-mail: investor.relations@novartis.com