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Merck partners with Kenya research centre

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Singapore: Merck has partnered with Kenya Medical Research Institution (KEMRI) for scientific research and development projects, programs and activities focused on malaria and schistosomiasis, as well as related co-infections.

"Merck is pleased to engage with KEMRI on a scientific collaboration as part of our commitment to advancing healthcare capacity and providing sustainable access for patients to high-quality health solutions and safe medicines in Africa," said Ms BelÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©n Garijo, president and chief executive officer, Merck Serono, the biopharmaceutical division of Merck.

Prof Solomon Mpoke, director and chief executive officer, KEMRI said "We are looking forward to establish a scientific collaboration with Merck focused on malaria and schistosomiasis, as well as related co-infections, for the purpose of advancing science and most importantly for benefitting patients."

"Merck's partnership with local research institutions will advance their research capacity and boost their rigorous efforts to improve healthcare in the country," added Mr Solomon Mpoke.

Merck is planning to partner with other research institutes in Africa in order to deliver innovative products quickly and cost-effectively. The company aims to further develop research and development activities through its newly launched Translational Innovation Platform unit dedicated to deliver unique, integrated and affordable solutions to tackle unmet medical needs of major tropical diseases such as schistosomiasis and malaria affecting children in endemic countries.

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The Merck Capacity Advancement Program (CAP) is a 5-year program aimed 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 education for medical students at African Universities.