

**European Researchers Invited to Submit Study Proposals for Bristol-Myers Squibb’s**

***Partnering* *for* *Cure™* Virology Research Programme**

*Partnering for Cure is Bristol-Myers Squibb’s flagship, Pan-European scientific initiative supporting breakthrough research and facilitating greater collaboration and knowledge-sharing with the virology community*

(PARIS, France, 8 April 2014) – In advance of this year’s International Liver Congress in London, England, Bristol-Myers Squibb invites European researchers to submit innovative research ideas that aim to cure chronic virological diseases. As part of Bristol-Myers Squibb’s ongoing commitment in virology, these projects provide an opportunity for researchers, particularly junior faculty and young investigators, to accelerate novel solutions that could lead to cures in HIV, hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV).

 This latest round of research applications will be accepted from 1 May to 15 July 2014 and aspiring scientists are encouraged to submit their ideas at [www.bms.com/israpplications](http://www.bms.com/israpplications). Priority will be given to research proposals in the area of translational science with a clear relevance for the clinical development of a cure in viral hepatitis or HIV infection.

 *Partnering for Cure* is led by the *Partnering for Cure*Faculty, an expert panel of clinical and research experts from across Europe and focuses on three pillars – education, scientific exchange and scientific research. The Faculty will award up to four recipients in a blinded evaluation after applications close. The four research applicants will share between them just over €300,000 in support from Bristol-Myers Squibb.

 “This year, we were proud to announce our first class of *Partnering for Cure*research programme recipients in January,” said Professor Jürgen Rockstroh, *Partnering for Cure* Faculty Chair. “Now we’re looking for even more proposals to expand our clinical network and continuing the fight against chronic viral diseases through the 2014 *Partnering for Cure* research programme.”

 Matthieu Perreau, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois (CHUV) Service Immunologie et Allergie, Switzerland, was one of the four *Partnering for Cure* research programme recipients last year, awarded for his research, *Identification of the memory CD4 T-cell population(s) harbouring replication competent HIV-1 within lymphoid tissues.*

 “This grant has provided me with the opportunity to pursue my passion and make an impact in the virology community,” remarks Perreau. “It is an honour to be part of this exciting initiative, and I look forward to working with my research colleagues to find a cure.”

 “Bristol-Myers Squibb has a longstanding vision of continuing to transform the treatment of viral diseases and fulfilling serious unmet medical needs of patients,” said George Hanna, MD, vice president, HIV Development, Bristol-Myers Squibb. “We look forward to this year’s applications and supporting the upcoming generation of researchers and scientists who are dedicated to improving treatments and delivering true advances in patient care.”

The projects that will receive support from Bristol-Myers Squibb will be announced on World AIDS Day – 1 December 2014.

***About Partnering for Cure***

*Partnering for Cure* is a European medical education programme developed as part of Bristol-Myers Squibb’s ongoing commitment to virology research, education and transforming clinical outcomes for patients with chronic viral diseases. The programme focuses on recent and ongoing cure research in HIV, HBV and HCV.

The objectives of the programme are to:

* Provide medical education to physicians interested in virology cure research
* Provide support to researchers active in virology cure research
* Provide a forum for physicians and researchers to discuss advances in virology cure

The *Partnering for Cure* initiative reinforces Bristol-Myers Squibb’s commitment in virology, which is rooted in the company’s legacy in virology and ongoing research in HIV and viral hepatitis. Chronic viral infections make a substantial contribution to the burden of chronic diseases and premature mortality worldwide. In December 2012, the Global Burden of Disease Study reported 1,465,000 deaths caused by HIV/AIDS and 1,445,000 deaths caused by viral hepatitis in 2010.[[1]](#endnote-1) Infections with hepatitis B and C viruses also cause an estimated 57 percent of cases of liver cirrhosis and 78 percent of cases of primary liver cancer annually.[[2]](#endnote-2) Whilst important **advances have** been made over the lastdecade **significant unmet needs and the opportunity for cure remains, particularly in HIV.**

**Bristol-Myers Squibb’s Commitment to Virology**

For over 20 years, Bristol-Myers Squibb has worked collaboratively with the virology community to help meet the needs of patients living with HIV, HBV and HCV – from developing medicines, supporting disease education efforts and clinical research, and improving access to medicines in the developing world.

Bristol-Myers Squibb supports a number of scientific and educational programs within the virology community around the world that encompass disease education, disease awareness and sharing of best practices. In addition to *Partnering for Cure* these include **SHE®** (***S****trong,* ***H****IV positive,* ***E****mpowered Women/****S****trong,* ***H****IV positive Women* ***E****ducational Programme)*, a comprehensive and innovative programme for women living with HIV and their healthcare providers, **PATH B®** (***P****atients and professionals* ***a****cting* ***t****ogether for* ***h****epatitis* ***B***), a joint initiative between hepatitis patient groups and hepatologists to provide comprehensive information and support for patients with chronic hepatitis B.

 Additionally, Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation’s philanthropic and educational programmes, such as **Secure the Future**® and **Delivering Hope**® aim to support people living with HIV in Africa and with viral hepatitis in Asia, through numerous private-public partnerships and community based projects.

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1. Global Burden of Disease Study 2010, *The Lancet*, Volume 380, No9859, Dec 15, 2012, p2053-2260 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. WHO and WHA, *Global Policy Report on the Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis,* 2013,

 <http://global-report.worldhepatitisalliance.org/en/home.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)