



Bristol-Myers Squibb Company & Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation

Contacts:

Wilson Grabill
Bristol-Myers Squibb, Corporate Affairs
646-361-7795
wilson.grabill@bms.com

Phangisile Mtshali
Bristol-Myers Squibb, South Africa
27-11-456-6441 (International)
phangisile.mtshali@bms.com

Becky Taylor
Bristol-Myers Squibb, Corporate Affairs
44-771-748-7530
rebecca.taylor@bms.com

Lori Williams
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas
713-798-4712
loriw@bcm.tmc.edu

For Immediate Release

**SOD-TURNING CEREMONY MARKS START OF CONSTRUCTION
OF FIRST PEDIATRIC HIV/AIDS MEDICAL CENTER IN SWAZILAND**

Funding Provided by Bristol-Myers Squibb's *SECURE THE FUTURE*[®] Initiative

(MBABANE, Swaziland, January 13, 2005) – With the Right Honorable Absalom Themba Dlamini, prime minister of Swaziland, presiding, a sod-turning ceremony here today marked the start of construction of the first pediatric HIV/AIDS medical center in this southern African nation, among the world's countries hardest hit by the pandemic.

Chief Siphon Shongwe, Minister for Health and Social Welfare of Swaziland, Peter R. Dolan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (NYSE:BMJ), New York, and Mark W. Kline, M.D., Director, Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, all participated in the ceremony.

The center is being funded by a grant from *SECURE THE FUTURE*[®], an initiative of Bristol-Myers Squibb and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation launched in

1999 to help alleviate the HIV/AIDS crisis among women and children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Scheduled to be opened by December, the Swaziland center will be modeled on the Botswana-Baylor College of Medicine Children's Clinical Center of Excellence at Princess Marina Hospital in Gaborone, Botswana, also funded by a *SECURE THE FUTURE* grant. Opened in June 2003, the Botswana center currently cares for more than 1,200 HIV-infected children, one of the largest concentrations of HIV-infected children in care in any center worldwide. The new center will be linked to other pediatric AIDS centers operated by Baylor in Africa and elsewhere around the world, including a pediatric HIV/AIDS medical center being built in Maseru, Lesotho, also funded by a *SECURE THE FUTURE* grant.

Swaziland is among the world's countries with the greatest prevalence of HIV and the greatest need for treatment and training to fight the disease. For example, HIV prevalence among pregnant women in 2002 was estimated at 39 percent, according to a UNAIDS report.

UNICEF has reported that in southern Africa, up to 50 percent of all deaths of children under the age of five are caused by HIV/AIDS. In sub-Saharan Africa, there are 1.9 million children younger than 15 years of age living with HIV and an estimated 12 million orphans ages 17 and under due to the disease, according to the most recent UNAIDS estimates. In Swaziland alone, it has been estimated that 10 to 15 percent of the entire population by 2010 will be orphans.

"Thousands of infants and children in Swaziland are either infected with or affected by the results of HIV/AIDS," Mr. Dolan said. "Through programs such as the pediatric HIV/AIDS center of excellence here, *SECURE THE FUTURE* is working to help to build infrastructure and capacity while providing medical care and support for patients, their families and communities. Our company's mission is to extend and enhance human life, and we are proud to support this and other pediatric HIV/AIDS centers as part of that mission."

Mr. Dolan recognized "the urgent need for awareness and treatment of HIV/AIDS, especially for women and children. Our goal is to address the reality in sub-Saharan Africa that too few children are being treated, sometimes because there are too

few doctors and nurses trained to treat children with AIDS. The children's clinics will assure that children are treated as children, not as little adults."

The new center will be staffed jointly by Baylor and health care professionals from Swaziland and other southern African countries. In addition to caring for children, the center will be used for training health care professionals and conducting research for this vulnerable population.

"We believe that children's centers such as this one in Swaziland ultimately will transform pediatric HIV/AIDS globally, bringing hope, longer lives and better health to tens of thousands of children and families," Dr. Kline said. "We are grateful to Bristol-Myers Squibb and the government of Swaziland for partnering with us to help build a global community of healthy children."

The Swaziland center will be a comprehensive, state-of-the-art center of excellence, with a large outpatient clinic, procedure rooms, pharmacy, laboratory, medical library, conference center and offices, according to Dr. Kline. Nutritional, psychological, social and child-life services will be provided along with comprehensive primary and HIV/AIDS specialty care.

The Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative was established in 1996 and is the largest university-based program worldwide dedicated to improving the health and lives of HIV-infected children. The children's center network includes centers in Constanta, Romania; Gaborone, Botswana; Mexico City, Mexico; Kampala, Uganda; and Benghazi, Libya. The centers will cooperate and collaborate on treatment, training and research.

SECURE THE FUTURE is an unprecedented public-private initiative launched in 1999 by Bristol-Myers Squibb and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation to help alleviate the HIV/AIDS crisis among women and children in sub-Saharan Africa. A key goal is to build sustainable model programs that can be replicated in resource-constrained settings. More than 170 grants have been awarded in nine countries in southern and West Africa under the initiative, the first and largest corporate commitment of its kind to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa. The countries are: South Africa, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal. The company has committed \$120 million to the initiative.

Bristol-Myers Squibb is a global pharmaceutical and related health care products company whose mission is to extend and enhance human life.

The mission of the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative is to promote health for all people through education, research, and public service. That mission is pursued by providing comprehensive medical and social services to HIV-infected and exposed infants and children; by sustaining excellence in educating U.S. and foreign health professionals; and by advancing clinical research.

###

Visit Bristol-Myers Squibb on the World Wide Web at: www.bms.com
Visit *SECURE THE FUTURE* on the World Wide Web at: www.securethefuture.com
Visit the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative at <http://bayloraids.org>