

**PRESS RELEASE FOR XVI INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE  
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**EXPERTS OUTLINE EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR FIGHTING HIV/AIDS  
AMONG INFANTS AND CHILDREN IN RESOURCE-LIMITED SETTINGS**

*50 Pediatric AIDS Corps Doctors to Deploy to Africa Next Week; Prevention of  
Mother-to-Child Transmission-Plus Center to Open Next Month;  
2 Additional Children's Clinical Centers to Open Next Year*

**TORONTO, CANADA (August 16, 2006)** – Experts from Bristol-Myers Squibb, New York (NYSE:BMJ), and Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, today outlined a broad range of innovative and effective medical care, treatment and research and social support strategies to fight HIV/AIDS among infants and children in resource-limited and impoverished areas of sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere around the world.

These efforts include the arrival of 50 Pediatric AIDS Corps doctors to a network of clinics treating HIV-positive children in sub-Saharan Africa next Monday, August 21; the opening of a program to prevent mother-to-child-transmission of HIV (PMTCT) through a government hospital and 15 feeder clinics in rural Swaziland next month and the opening of two more children's clinics in Uganda and Burkina Faso next year.

At a briefing during the XVI International AIDS Conference, Mark A Wainberg, O.C., O.Q., PhD., conference co-chair and director of McGill University AIDS Centre, Quebec, described challenges in addressing the special needs of children in the developing world.

“In the last 25 years of the fight against HIV/AIDS, we have seen many contributions by governments, corporations and foundations to bring treatment to people

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in need, however, as we gather here today, there is so much more that needs to be done,” said Wainberg. “We need innovative approaches to treat the most vulnerable populations and also to bring access to treatment to the world’s most resource constrained locations. *SECURE THE FUTURE* is a wonderful model of how both of these goals are attainable.”

According to the most recent UNAIDS estimates, there were 2.3 million children under 15 years of age living with HIV in 2005. An estimated 540,000 were newly infected, and 380,000 children died from AIDS. Almost 90% of the world’s children living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa, where fewer than one in 10 are being reached by basic support services. In this worst-affected region of the world, there are 12 million children under 17 who lost one or both parents to the disease.

An initiative of Bristol-Myers Squibb and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, *SECURE THE FUTURE* has been working on the ground in sub-Saharan Africa since 1999 – in partnership with government Ministries of Health, medical institutions, NGOs and other organizations – to create comprehensive approaches to HIV/AIDS treatment and support that have reached thousands of women and children.

Approximately \$61 million of the more than 200 grants in the \$150 million *SECURE THE FUTURE* initiative have been dedicated to research and creating sustainable, replicable model programs specifically for children. These include: support for a network of Children’s HIV/AIDS Clinical Centers of Excellence operated by the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative; co-funding with Baylor the Pediatric AIDS Corp that will send up to 250 doctors to Africa over the next five years to treat an estimated 80,000 children and train local health care personnel; and operating a Community-Based Treatment Support center focused on PMTCT.

Additional projects supporting children include: education in preventing sexually transmitted disease and infections; psychosocial care and support for orphans and vulnerable children and psychosocial adjustment for orphaned adolescents; training, food security and income-generating projects for caregivers; and community mobilizations to reduce stigma and foster testing.

Given the extreme burden of disease in this region combined with a limited ability to pay for HIV medicines, Bristol-Myers Squibb made an important decision to

substantially lower the price of our medications to a level that delivers no profit to the company. In addition, in July 2005 the Company announced the further reduction in the price of pediatric formulations from no-profit to significantly below cost in an attempt to reduce all barriers delaying broad and accelerated access to treatment for the millions of children in sub-Saharan Africa who need these medicines most. In addition, the company also has pledged that its patents would not stand in the way of inexpensive HIV/AIDS therapy being made available in sub-Saharan Africa.

“Innovative strategies will be necessary to scale up the care and treatment of hundreds of thousands of HIV-infected children and families across sub-Saharan Africa. We believe that the Children's Clinical Centers of Excellence and Pediatric AIDS Corps will transform pediatric and family HIV/AIDS care in some of the world's hardest hit countries.” said Mark Kline, M.D., president of the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, professor of pediatrics and chief of Retrovirology, Baylor College of Medicine.

Kline announced that 50 Pediatric AIDS Corp physicians will arrive in Africa on August 21 to begin one-year assignments to treat children and train healthcare professionals. They will be based at Pediatric AIDS Centers of Excellence operated by Baylor in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Uganda and Burkina Faso and serve at the centers and in nearby rural areas as part of the \$32 million *SECURE THE FUTURE* and Baylor program to send up to 250 doctors to Africa through 2010.

Funding for construction of the centers in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland was provided through Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation grants. Additional pediatric AIDS centers funded by the initiative will be opened in Burkina Faso and Uganda next year, and funds have been committed to build another two centers.

“In Swaziland, we have successfully linked a community-based treatment support program dedicated to preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV with a pediatric HIV/AIDS clinical center of excellence to provide medical and social-support services through a coordinated continuum of care from pre-natal testing, through delivery to pediatric care,” said Sebastian Wanless, M.B., Ch.B., PhD., senior medical director,

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*SECURE THE FUTURE*. Swaziland is among the areas hardest-hit by the pandemic. According to UNAIDS, HIV/AIDS prevalence in the country at the end of 2005 was 33.4%.

The continuum of prevention, treatment and care begins at the Pilot Operational Research and Community-Based Program, known as the “PORECO Project,” established by *SECURE THE FUTURE* in Mbabane, Swaziland, to provide Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission - Plus. Services include: a clinic providing highly active antiretroviral treatment (HAART) when required, voluntary counseling and testing, and social services such as home visits, infant feeding counseling, nutrition and food security. This program is coordinated with the care and treatment of infants and children now offered at the Baylor-Bristol-Myers Squibb Children’s Clinical Center of Excellence – Swaziland, which was opened in Mbabane in February 2006.

To further extend testing and other medical services aimed at reducing the new infection rate in infants, 10 Pediatric AIDS Corp physicians will be based at the clinical center in Mbabane and begin serving clinics in the area next month, according to Wanless.

The PORECO Project will be replicated beginning next month at the Piggs Peak Government Hospital in Piggs Peak, Swaziland, and its 15 associated clinics in the rural northern Hhohho area.

“In addition to medical treatment and care, we funded a number of medical research studies to address what we perceived as a paucity of pediatric research in HIV/AIDS,” Wanless said. “Our studies focused on infants and children have been relevant to resource-limited and rural settings in Africa.”

For example, one study resulted in development of an affordable means to diagnose HIV in infants as early as six weeks of age. According to Wanless, early diagnosis is critical for clinical management and cost-effective in terms of subsequent care of children. This step in diagnosis was adopted as policy by the Department of Health of South Africa. The study was conducted by Gayle Sherman, M.D., Ph.D University of the Witwatersrand and National Health Laboratory Service in Johannesburg, South Africa.

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Another study demonstrated the efficacy of post-exposure prophylaxis in reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV-1 in infants born to mothers who were unable to access medication prior to delivery. The study was conducted in Johannesburg by Glenda Gray M.D., University of Witswatersrand who received the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights for this accomplishment.

Other studies demonstrated the protective effect of zinc supplementation in reducing the pneumonia and gastroenteritis in HIV-infected children and addressed opportunistic infections and how best to prevent and treat them.

### **About Secure the Future**

In 1999, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation developed *SECURE THE FUTURE*, a public-private collaboration to help alleviate the HIV/AIDS crisis among women and children in sub-Saharan Africa, the region most affected by the pandemic.

The company has committed \$150 million to the initiative which includes medical care and research, community outreach and education and new infrastructure. Programs funded include public education aimed at prevention, training for physicians and other public health workers, home-based care strategies, interventions to aid orphans and other vulnerable children, clinical research and medical care.

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

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