

Beat: Health

JOHNSON & JOHNSON MARKS WORLD AIDS DAY WITH MAJOR NEW GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

TO END HIV INFECTION IN GIRLS AND WOMEN

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USPA NEWS - Building on its 25-year legacy in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Johnson & Johnson announced on December 4, four new public-private partnerships through its Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies to significantly reduce the burden of HIV incidence...

Building on its 25-year legacy in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Johnson & Johnson announced on December 4, four new public-private partnerships through its Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies to significantly reduce the burden of HIV incidence, especially among adolescent girls, who make up 74 % of new HIV infections among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa.

Announced on World AIDS Day, these new initiatives include collaborations with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM), all focused on efforts to stem the tide of HIV infection and empower women and girls in HIV prevention.

The initiatives include: becoming a major partner supporting PEPFAR's DREAMS initiative, a collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Girl Effect and others, to dramatically reduce HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women in 10 sub-Saharan African countries; CHAI and IPM, which focus on increasing access to simplified HIV treatments and advancing innovative tools to help prevent sexual transmission of HIV in women and girls. A fourth initiative, Connect for Life[™], is a new program that is designed to enable local health professionals in resource-limited settings to improve diagnosis and treatment of those living with HIV and tuberculosis.

Globally, 15 % of women living with HIV/AIDS are aged 15-24, with 80 % living in sub-Saharan Africa. Every year, 380,000 adolescent girls and young women are infected with HIV, signaling an urgent need for a shift in programming. Through these initiatives, and as part of its overall global health strategy, Johnson & Johnson is working with partners to develop integrated, multi-sector solutions that meet complex needs and create an evidence base of measurable health outcomes to help direct future investments.

Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, will support PEPFAR's DREAMS initiative by committing up to \$15 million over two years in combined funding and in-kind contributions. This will provide in-country consumer insights, expertise and financial resources in 10 sub-Saharan countries to support a suite of programs focused on empowering adolescent girls, ensuring improved access to treatment and prevention options, and creating supporting communities. Janssen joins other major partners, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Girl Effect, in its support.

Janssen Sciences Ireland UC, one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, is collaborating with CHAI to facilitate the development and delivery of a fixed-dose combination of darunavir and ritonavir (DRV/rt) for the treatment of HIV in resource-limited settings.

Building on a decade-long partnership, Janssen Sciences Ireland UC granted IPM an exclusive, royalty-free license to develop its HIV medicine and commercialize in a number of developing countries its HIV medicine darunavir as a potential vaginal and rectal microbicide for HIV prevention in women.

In collaboration with the Infectious Diseases Institute, the Ugandan Ministry of Health, and Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust, Janssen has launched the Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact as a flagship of Connect for Life[™], a new program that deploys mobile and digital technologies, demonstration projects, and Academies of independent local experts to help patients manage their diseases, while also building capacity in local healthcare professionals to enhance detection, treatment and prevention of HIV and TB, and improve maternal and child health.

In addition, Johnson & Johnson is galvanizing public support for HIV-related causes by donating funds through its Donate-A-Photo

initiative and Charity Miles.

With approximately 127,000 employees at more than 270 Johnson & Johnson operating companies work with partners in health care to touch the lives of over a billion people every day, throughout the world.

Source : Johnson & Johnson

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