

# 3rd UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit–MARS 2017 in partnership with the Office of President of Mauritius

*UNESCO MARS brings together researchers from across Africa to discuss the generation, sharing and dissemination of research data.*

NAIROBI, KENYA, November 20, 2017 /EINPresswire.com/ -- • UNESCO MARS brings together researchers from across Africa to discuss the generation, sharing and dissemination of research data and to prepare for the road ahead in Africa's development as an international hub for excellence in scientific innovation.

• During the Summit, the winners of 2017 MARS Best African Researchers Awards, and MARS Best African Women Awards will be announced as part of Merck Foundation long-term commitment towards empowering women and youth in STEM with a special focus on Scientific Research in Cancer and Vaccines Development.

As part of Merck Foundation STEM Program for Women and Youth, Merck Foundation plans to conduct the 3rd edition of their annual “UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit” on the 28th and 29th of November 2017 in partnership with Government of Mauritius under the patronage of the Head of State of The Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, UNESCO, African Union and African Governments

Speaking on Merck's support for the UNESCO-MARS Prof. Frank

Stangenberg-Haverkamp, Chairman of Executive Board and Family Board of E.Merck KG emphasizes: “We are keen to support young gifted researchers by passing on the knowledge and experience we have gathered over the 340 years of Merck history. Through our “Merck STEM Program,” we aim to advance capacity in young researchers and promote young gifted scientists, to



UNESCO-MARS 2016 ‘Best African Woman Researcher Award’ 4th place winner Maria Nabaggala, from Infectious Diseases Institute, Uganda



The banner features logos for UNESCO, African Union, University of Cambridge, and Merck Foundation. It includes the text: "UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit- MARS 2017". Below the logos is a photo of a scientist in a lab coat and safety glasses holding a test tube. A white box on the left says "SAVE THE DATE Cancer & Vaccines Development 28th and 29th of November 2017 Port Louis, Mauritius". A white box on the right says "UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit UNESCO-MARS Empowering Women and Youth in Research From Africa For Africa". The Merck logo is at the bottom right.

UNESCO-MERCK Africa Research Summit 2017

teach them the cutting edge of research in our R&D hubs and laboratories.”

“The annual Summit aims to contribute to building research capacity in the African research community, with a special focus on “The Role of Scientific Research in responding to Cancer and Vaccines Development – two emerging challenges in Africa”. The Summit will also showcase innovative research taking place in projects, programs and initiatives across African universities and the wider African research community,” said Dr. Rasha Kelej, Merck Foundation’s Chief Executive Officer.

The organizing committee will present the “Best Young African Researcher Award” and the “Best African Woman Researcher Award” to recognize the outstanding contribution of African female scientists with an aim to promote women in research and advance their contribution to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

All abstracts will be peer-reviewed and 100 winners will be eligible for sponsorship. First three winners will be eligible for a further number of Research Awards and further Research Awards will be dedicated for the Best Five African Women Researchers.

Watch the video to meet last year winners of [Merck Africa Research Summit Awards](#).

Watch the video of the highlights of the [UNESCO MARS 2016](#) in Ethiopia

Find out more information:

UNESCO MARS Abstract Book 2016 - <https://goo.gl/MsiVpt>

UNESCO MARS [Scientific Book 2017](#) – <https://goo.gl/FYZHyy>

UNESCO MARS White Paper (in English) 2017 – <https://goo.gl/NnrSoX>

UNESCO MARS White Paper (in French) 2017 - <https://goo.gl/DnzaUz>

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