

# Merck Foundation partners strongly with Malaysia after success stories in India and Indonesia

*From India to Malaysia, Merck Foundation continues their collaborative efforts to build healthcare capacity in Africa and Developing Countries.*

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, January 12, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- • Merck Foundation (MF) announces the “Merck Diabetes Award” and “Merck Hypertension Award” 2017 winners from Malaysia.

- Over 30,000 medical graduates from more than 35 countries have benefited from the foundation’s partnership with universities and governments of many nations across Asia and Africa.
- In 2017, over 100 candidates from Africa and Asia received their fellowship and training in Oncology, Diabetes and Hypertension, and Infertility.

Merck Foundation (MF), a non-profit company and subsidiary of Merck KGaA Germany, and the University of Malaya (UM), Malaysia’s oldest and most established institution of higher learning, signed a Memorandum of Understanding today aimed at providing fellowship training for post-graduate medical trainees from Africa and other developing countries.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by YB Datuk Dr. Mary Yap Kain Ching, Deputy Minister of Higher Education Malaysia.

Professor Dr. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, Chairman of Executive Board of E-Merck KG and Chairman of Board of Trustees of



Dr. Rasha Kelej, Prof. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, YBhg. Datuk Ir. (Dr.) Abdul Rahim Hashim, and YBhg. Dato' Professor Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman sign the MoU



Merck Foundation and the University of Malaya signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at providing fellowship training for post-graduate medical trainees from Africa and other developing countries.

Merck Foundation said, “We are delighted to partner with the University of Malaya, to provide clinical training and fellowship programmes to young healthcare practitioners from Africa and other developing countries.

“I strongly believe that building capacity is the right strategy to improve access to quality and equitable healthcare since the lack of professional skills is a key challenge in these nations. We have successfully conducted many educational and fellowship programs in both Africa and Asia since 2012 and we will continue our long-term commitment through our Merck Foundation.”

The MF-UM collaboration formalised today will facilitate academic support to post-graduate medical trainees in the fields of diabetes, oncology and infertility.

Dr. Rasha Kelej, Chief Executive Officer of Merck Foundation explained, “This partnership is essential for the sustainability of Merck Foundation programmes – especially ‘Merck Cancer Access Program’ and ‘Merck More Than A Mother’ – that serve as platforms to train oncologists and embryologists to improve access to fertility and cancer care in Africa and Asia. I personally believe through this partnership we will be able to make a significant impact on societies and scientific communities in both continents.”

YBhg. Datuk Ir. (Dr.) Abdul Rahim Hashim, Vice-Chancellor, University of Malaya, remarked that UM readily welcomed the collaboration with MF. He said, “Many of our own medical professionals have, in the past, benefited from training in the United Kingdom and Australia. It befalls us to reach out and help others now.

“For UM, the partnership with MF reaffirms our standing and role as Malaysia’s oldest and most established higher learning institution. It also contributes towards our nation’s aspiration of gaining global prominence as an international education hub with a difference.”

YBhg. Dato’ Professor Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya said, “We possess the requisite experience. Our medical faculty has a well-established post-graduate medical training programme that has already produced an international cohort of graduates from Indonesia, India, Mauritius, and the Maldives.”

For MF, the collaboration exemplifies an effort to help improve the quality of healthcare in underserved communities around the world. The Merck Capacity Advancement Programme has benefited over 30,000 medical graduates across Africa and Asia.

In 2017 alone, MF initiated the following activities in partnership with academia, ministries of health and the offices of First Ladies in more than 35 countries:

- Merck Cancer Access Program:

Over 30 African physicians received oncology fellowship programmes spanning one to two years, in a bid to help increase the limited number of oncologists in Africa.



Prof. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, Chairman of Executive Board of E-Merck KG and Chairman of Board of Trustees of Merck Foundation

- Merck More Than A Mother:

More than 30 candidates received three-month hands-on training to be embryologists and fertility specialists in Africa and Asia to improve quality, regulated and safe fertility care in developing countries.

- Merck Diabetes and Hypertension Awards:

Over 50 medical postgraduates will receive a one-year online diploma in diabetes or preventive cardiovascular medicines, as part of the effort to establish a platform of diabetes and hypertension experts in Africa and Asia.

The awards encouraged participants from African and Asian medical universities to propose innovative concepts for improving early detection and prevention of diabetes and hypertension in their countries. The awards featured their own themes, namely, “Every Day is a Diabetes Day” and “What the Healthy Heart Needs”.

UM post-graduate clinical masters student, Dr. Fu Mei Sian, won the Merck Diabetes Award 2017. MF will be enrolling her in a one-year online post-graduate diploma course in diabetes offered by the University of South Wales, UK.

Dr. Fu remarked, “I will also have the opportunity to apply for a study grant from Merck Malaysia on the concept paper that won the award. I hope I will be able to publish the study in the future and encourage more people to use the mobile application that is intended to help prevent diabetes complications.”

Dr. Siti Nurbaya Shahrir, who holds a doctorate in Public Health from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia won of Merck Hypertension Award 2017. She declared, “I am sure the online post-graduate diploma course in preventive cardiovascular medicine will enable me to better serve my country by developing innovative solutions to curb hypertension.”

Ms. Ee Boon Huey, President and Chief Executive Officer of Merck Malaysia, expressed that the MF-UM collaboration exemplifies Merck’s belief in working together for common good.

She explained, “Merck has been around for 350 years. Today, we are a truly global company, with 50,000 employees in 66 countries working on breakthrough solutions and technologies. However, we are committed to broadening our relationships and matching our resources with the strengths of others so that together, we may change the world.”

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