

# Merck Foundation announces winners of “Merck More Than a Mother” Media Recognition Awards 2017

*Merck Foundation calls for applications for “Merck More Than a Mother” Media Recognition Awards 2018.*

NAIROBI, KENYA, June 26, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Merck Foundation](https://www.merckfoundation.com), the philanthropic arm of Merck KGaA Germany announced the winners of ‘Merck More Than a Mother’ Media Recognition Awards 2017. The awards were initiated with the aim to recognize and appreciate professional journalists and students who have produced accurate, informative and compelling stories about infertility, infertile women or couples.

The award ceremony will be held in Nairobi, Kenya on the 9th of July 2018. It will be attended by top fertility experts, eminent media personalities, policymakers, infertile women and other distinguished media people from across Africa.

“I strongly believe that media has the power to bring in desired behavior change in the society. Media plays an important role in educating people around sensitive issues such as infertility stigma and raise awareness about male infertility and infertility prevention. We will define a call for action for all invited African Journalists for addressing the issue in their communities during our first Media Health Training which we will conduct on the next day” emphasized Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation and President of Merck More Than a Mother.

The awards were announced for four segments namely; Multimedia, Print, Radio and Online segment for two broad categories; professional journalists and media students.

The awards attracted over 300 applications from journalists and students from various media houses, radio stations and online portals.

“We were overwhelmed to see the response from the media community. This encouraged us to continue with the initiative in 2018 and beyond to motivate the professional journalists and media students to continue writing and advocate for this noble cause. We have also started two important hashtags #MenToo can suffer infertility not women only, and #NoToInfertilityStigma to encourage all our media partners to start this movement across their wide platforms” Dr. Rasha Kelej added.

Merck Foundation also invites applications for “Merck More Than a Mother” Media Recognition



The poster features a purple header with the Merck Foundation logo. Below it, the text reads "MERCK MORE THAN A MOTHER" and "Together we can create a culture shift". A blue box contains the text "MERCK HEALTH MEDIA TRAINING 2018" and "Theme: Role of Media to break the stigma around infertility and infertile women in Africa". A purple box with white text says "SAVE THE DATE" and "10th July 2018 10:00-17:30 Followed by Dinner Intercontinental Hotel Nairobi, Kenya". The poster also includes an image of a woman holding a child, a newspaper, a tablet, and a cup of coffee. At the bottom, it states "Merck Foundation to conduct its first Health Media Training for African Journalists in 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya, focused on the international standards and media ethics for reporting the sensitive issues like infertility in Africa. Merck Foundation appreciates the outstanding health journalism and seeks the support of Health media across Africa to achieve the objective of creating a culture shift and breaking stigma around infertility and infertile women."

**Merck more than a Mother Media Health Training 2018**

Awards 2018. The award will have two categories; Journalists and Students. The Award is open to Print, TV broadcast, Radio and online journalists and media students whose stories appear in newspapers, websites, blogs and television targeting the general public addressing Infertility Stigma and stories about Infertile women and couples with the aim to empower them and change the cultural perception of their condition. The last date for submission of applications is February 2019.

The jury for the awards consisted of Mr. Tom Mshindi, Editor-in-chief, Nation Media Group, Mr. William Pike, Director, Radio Africa Group/ Star Publications, Ms. Renee Ngamau, Radio Host/Life Coach, Capital FM and Ms. Carole Mandi, Founder/ Publisher, Carole Mandi Media and was chaired by Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation and President of Merck More Than a Mother.

Here are the details of first award winners from profession journalist's category from each segment:

The award from the Multimedia Segment will be conferred to Ms. Namukabo L Werungah and team from NTV Kenya for their excellent story named 'A tale of pain and shame of childless women in Busia'. The team will be rewarded with USD 5000 at the ceremony.

The award from the Print Media Segment will be given to Mr. Gardy Chacha, Senior Health and Science Reporter from Standard Newspaper, Kenya. He was selected for his soul-stirring story named 'Cecilia Wairimu: One woman, Three marriages, 11 years of Infertility'. He will be rewarded with USD 1500.

The award from the Online Media Segment will be conferred to Ms. Molatelo Mainetje, News and Current Affair Producer and Documentary Filmmaker from South Africa for her short film called 'Womb Man'. She will be rewarded with USD 1500.

Ms. Asha Bakidusa, Journalist with Royal Media Services Limited, Under Bahari FM, Kenya has been selected as the award winner from the Radio Segment for her program on 'How family men supporting their spouses in cases of Infertility'. She will be rewarded with USD 1500. Here are the details of first award winners from student's category from each segment:



Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation with the heroines of Merck More Than a Mother from Uganda and Honorable Sarah Opendi, Minister of State of Health of Republic of Uganda



Merck Foundation- Merck More than a Mother with Byansi Adrian Ssemugga & Sawuya Ntongo, couple from Uganda

The award from the Online Media Segment will be conferred to Ms. Lilian Kaivilu, Freelance Journalist and Founder of Impacthub Media, Linguistics Media and Communication Student at MOI University, Kenya, for her story 'The wrath of barrenness in Kamba culture'. She will be rewarded with USD 1000.

The award from the Print Media Segment will be given to Mr. Sérgio Simão Raimundo from Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique. He was selected for his story named 'Infertility in the South of Mozambique'. He will be rewarded with USD 1000.

The award ceremony will be followed by Merck Foundation's first 'Merck Health Media Training' to break stigma around infertility and improve awareness about male infertility. It will be held on 10th of July with the aim to train African journalists about the international standards and media ethics for reporting sensitive issues like infertility.

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