

## **Lilly and South African Partners Launch New Pilot Program to Expand Access to Care for Non-Communicable Diseases**

*Multi-year project aims to integrate screening, treatment and prevention for diabetes and hypertension in eThekweni region*

9 JULY – Eli Lilly and Company (NYSE: LLY), Advance Access & Delivery (AA&D) and the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) announced today the launch of a new pilot program that aims to increase access care for non-communicable disease (NCDs) in South Africa. Known as ‘NCD Link’, the project will be introduced to the Kwamakhutha Community in eThekweni District and focus on integrating screening, treatment and prevention of diabetes and hypertension within established primary and community care systems. AA&D, together with their local partner, Interactive Research and Development South Africa (IRD SA) will implement the program, and SAMRC will conduct operational research and independent evaluation for the program.

“The NCD Link is an innovative and much needed multi-year project aimed at integrating diabetes and hypertension care with existing TB and HIV programmes for the people of eThekweni,” said Belinda Bhoodoo, Director of Corporate Affairs and Market Access of Lilly South Africa. “NCDs are a major contributor to poverty and a barrier to social and economic development in this region and across the country. This pilot will be run in close coordination with our local partners to ensure we reach the most vulnerable people in our communities—and inform policy decisions at the regional and national levels.”

Integrating prevention and treatment of NCDs is a crucial component of strengthening health systems. The program requires close public and private cooperation between community-based care organisations, clinical specialists, and national, provincial and district department of health teams in order to make this effort integrative, sustainable, and oriented toward improvement in outcomes and care quality.

“Advance Access & Delivery and local partners will be working alongside the KwaZulu-Natal province and eThekweni District, developing locally relevant responses to national strategies concerning non-communicable disease like diabetes or hypertension and an infectious disease like TB,” said Thulani Mbatha, Country Director of IRD South Africa.

“The patient-centered model of care will be implemented through community-level active case finding, linkage to care, effective education and quality management of NCDs such as diabetes and hypertension and infectious diseases such as TB. The South African Medical Research Council will assist by independently monitoring and evaluating this intervention. The hope is that by closely working with the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Department of Health and eThekweni District it will be possible to transfer the learnings from this project to other areas in the eThekweni District and KwaZulu-Natal province. By rigorously documenting, monitoring and evaluating the intervention we hope that the learnings of this project will be shared nationally.”

The pilot program uses Lilly's global health framework, which includes studying key research questions, reporting what works and what doesn't, and then using the data to advocate for the scale up of the most effective solutions. The program will contribute to Lilly 30x30, the company's goal to create new access to quality health care for 30 million people in resource-limited communities every year by 2030.

“This program builds on decades of Lilly’s community-based work in South Africa as we strive to reach more people in need,” said Bhoodoo. “By working closely with our local partners in civil society and government, we hope to co-create sustainable and scalable solutions that will improve life for people across South Africa and throughout the world.”

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### **About Eli Lilly and Company**

Lilly is a global health care leader that unites caring with discovery to make life better for people around the world. We were founded more than a century ago by a man committed to creating high-quality medicines that meet real needs, and today we remain true to that mission in all our work. Across the globe, Lilly employees work to discover and bring life-changing medicines to those who need them, improve the understanding and management of disease, and give back to communities through philanthropy and volunteerism. Lilly South Africa was established in 1938 and has strived to make life better for people in Africa for the last 80 years. To learn more, visit [www.lilly.co.za](http://www.lilly.co.za)

### **About Advance Access & Delivery**

AA&D is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit that is working in solidarity with partners around the world to overcome barriers to high quality health care and medicines, particularly for economically and socially marginalized groups. <http://www.advanceaccessanddelivery.org/>

### **About The South African Medical Research Council**

SAMRC was established in 1969 with a mandate to improve the health of the country’s population, through research, development and technology transfer, so that people can enjoy a better quality of life. The scope of the organisation’s research projects includes tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular and non-communicable diseases, gender and health, and alcohol and other drug abuse. With a strategic objective to help strengthen the health systems of the country – in line with that of the Department of Health, the SAMRC constantly identifies the main causes of death in South Africa. <http://www.mrc.ac.za/>

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## **About Interactive Research and Development South Africa**

IRD SA is registered as a South African-based nonprofit company (NPC). IRD SA works extensively in Southern Africa providing healthcare delivery and research. The IRD SA team leverages process and technology innovations to address gaps in global healthcare delivery, including health market innovations based on social business models; introduction of new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines; performance-based incentives for health workers. <http://ird.global/>

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