

# Airlines, summits, people, and new treatments

A king-size update from our **Publishing Partners**



**SCHILLER**  
The Art of Diagnostics

## Improved safety on board of Ethiopian Airlines thanks to SCHILLER defibrillators

Being aware of the fact that the first 3 to 5 minutes are the most important to save the life of a cardiac arrest victim, public defibrillation has become an increasingly significant issue all over the world, on the ground and in the air.

Ethiopian Airlines has earned various industry awards in recognition of its contribution to African aviation and its outstanding services and has been a Star Alliance member since December 2011. Committed to success and technical innovation, the airline has also invested in on-board safety. Over the past 3 years, it has equipped all its fleet with 35 units of FRED easy defibrillators.

SCHILLER's automated external defibrillators (AED's) are distinguished by a unique technology called Multi-pulse Biowave®. Thanks to the individually regulated impulses the defibrillation process has a gentle impact on the heart; the patient recovers more quickly and does not have to deal with the unnecessary side-effects of too much energy being applied. This waveform is equally efficient for both adults and children, thanks to the automatic recognition of smaller child pads and subsequent energy adaptation. Adapted voice and displayed instructions for first aid rescuers, together with a fast rhythm analysis and shock delivery, guide the rescuer during the resuscitation process and minimise the hands-off time.

SCHILLER offers three different public access defibrillators that are extremely simple to handle, even for lay rescuers:

- FRED easy: Classic version, the perfect device for healthcare professionals and the general public alike.
- FRED easyport: Incredibly small and light, fits into a coat pocket and still meets all requirements of a modern AED.
- FRED easy Online: Permanently connected to a network and therefore under full control at all times. The data recorded can be transmitted easily – no paper or memory needed.

We thank Ethiopian Airlines for choosing our devices and are proud to make flying with them even safer.



**Crown Agents**

Crown Agents will return to Medic West Africa in Lagos on the 16–18 October 2012 to lead a panel discussion on innovations in public-private partnerships and to showcase the impacts of our most recent health-focused projects.

On 14–16 November we are also a key participant at the Global Health Supply Chain Conference (IAHPL) in Rwanda, where we will chair a session on 'Risk management' and deliver a presentation on health supply chain solutions.

At the 2012 International AIDS Conference in Washington, we highlighted our work supporting the fight against HIV/AIDS and strengthening health systems at a reception attended by representatives from partner organisations and delegations from China, Macedonia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Zambia.

We also supported the London Summit on Family Planning in July, sponsored by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which pledges to help global leaders provide 120 million more women in the world's poorest countries with access to methods of contraception by 2020.

Elsewhere, our contract with the Zimbabwe Health Worker retention scheme, funded by the Global Fund through the United Nations Development Programme, has been extended to December 2013. Last year, Crown Agents won the 'Development' category at the British Expertise International Awards for retaining vital health workers through an innovative payment scheme. To date we have paid 18 785 health workers more than US\$90 million resulting in a near 100% attendance rate. We are also supporting UNICEF's Health Transition Fund to manage some US\$6 980 000 to provide allowances for district medical officers, doctors, midwives, and midwifery tutors.

## SIEMENS

### Innovating to advance human health

A rapidly growing and aging global population is intensifying the demand for healthcare. With African countries experiencing some of the highest population growth rates in the world, it is predicted that the continent's population will exceed both China's and India's population in 2025. The challenge is to make medical services more affordable and accessible to more Africans while improving the quality of individual patient care.

Siemens Healthcare provides diagnostic solutions for the management of diseases such as HIV and breast cancer, from diagnosis and prognosis through to therapy and monitoring. Healthcare providers are able to acquire products and solutions for the entire range of patient care from a single source.

The company's broad portfolio of innovative products includes a variety of diagnostic systems – integrated chemistry, immunoassay, routine chemistry, automation, haematology, haemostasis, microbiology, diabetes, urinalysis, blood gas monitoring, and molecular testing.

Siemens is working with funding agencies through its project, Resources Embracing Africa with Care and Hope (REACH) which expands access to cost-effective healthcare in Africa. Through this, the company is able to deliver HIV viral infectious disease management in environments that are too inhospitable for some other systems.

Siemens will be participating at two key exhibitions in Kenya. The Kenya Medical Laboratory Technicians and Technologists Board (KMTTLB) meets on 14 September at the KICC Amphitheatre.

The theme is, 'Making *Laboratory Testing a Safe Reality*'. The forum brings together key individuals in the field to share information on the importance of regulation and provision of quality medical laboratory services.

The Association of Kenya Medical Laboratory Scientific Officers (AKMLSO) is meeting on the 10–12 October at the Kitale National Museum, Trans-Nzoia. The theme is *Genetics & Illness – Medical Laboratory Aspects*. This exhibition is for medical laboratory professionals to exchange and share knowledge in the advancement of medical laboratory sciences.

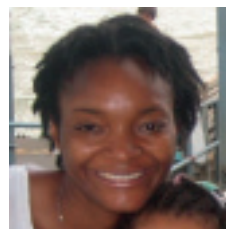
Siemens will be represented at both events and invite you to join them at both congresses to learn more about their Healthcare Diagnostics portfolio.

For more information please contact Derrick Dlamini, Export Manager; email: [derrick.dlamini@siemens.com](mailto:derrick.dlamini@siemens.com); mobile +27 (79) 897-5329; or visit: [www.siemens.com/diagnostics](http://www.siemens.com/diagnostics).



The University of Liverpool's online Master of Public Health (MPH) degree programme offers working professionals access from wherever they are to a reputable British university and a global community of best practice in health. In addition, the MPH programme can be an entry point to the wider world of public health research.

Students on the programme enjoy high-quality research support from dissertation advisors who are themselves accomplished public health researchers. The resulting quality can be seen in the growing number of papers and presentations being accepted at key international Public Health conferences and within peer-reviewed journals. Several of these research papers have been written by MPH graduates from Africa and relate directly to health issues in their communities. Read more about the students, their research abstracts and the MPH programme's research impact via the link on <http://www.liverpool-degrees.com/africahealth>.



Among the above students is University of Liverpool online MPH graduate **Elizabeth Isimhen Williams** who will be presenting her research findings – about social determinants of health and HIV prevention/care project planning among a group of people in Mozambique – at the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting in San Francisco in October 2012.

'I feel ecstatic and honoured that my research has been accepted for presentation at APHA. I see it as an opportunity to share the findings of my research with a large group of public health professionals who can provide immediate critique, use the information, and hopefully explore the topic in greater detail in future research, programme design and implementation,' said Elizabeth, a nutrition programme manager at Hellen Keller International, Bangladesh.

Would you like to have support in making a difference in your career and community? Take a few minutes to answer some key questions about your professional development by visiting <http://www.liverpool-degrees.com/africahealth>.



Medicines for Malaria Venture

### New quality antimalarials shipped out to malaria-endemic country

Malaria places a huge burden on Africa. New, more effective and affordable medicines are urgently needed to treat the over 216 million cases that occur each year.

In October 2011, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) granted regulatory approval for Eurartesim®, dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (DHA/PQP). This artemisinin combination therapy (ACT) was developed to stringent regulatory standards for the treatment of uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria by Sigma-Tau (Italy) in partnership with **Medicines for Malaria Venture**.<sup>1</sup> It is administered once a day for 3 days, making it easier for patients to comply with the dosing. Studies have also shown that Eurartesim has a greater capacity than other ACTs to protect patients from new malaria infections.<sup>2</sup>

In July 2012, more than 160 000 packages of Eurartesim (dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine or DHA-PQP) were delivered to Cambodia, making it the first shipment of Eurartesim to a malaria-endemic country.<sup>3</sup>

The pharmaceutical company Sigma-Tau has recently submitted the Eurartesim dossier to the World Health Organization's prequalification programme and is in the process of submitting it for national registrations in four INESS<sup>4</sup> countries: Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, and Ghana. Phase IV studies are planned in these countries to monitor the effectiveness and safety of new, approved antimalarial drugs in 'real-life' settings.

Over the last 10 years, DHA-PQP has been used widely and demonstrated effectiveness as a key treatment against malaria in the private sector. With the approval of Eurartesim by the EMA the medicine is now on the list of approved medicines held by international donors and is becoming more accessible to the public sector in endemic countries.

The Sigma-Tau and MMV team are now working to ensure the widespread use of Eurartesim; and work continues on the development of a paediatric formulation of Eurartesim targeted at children under the age of 5, who are the hardest hit by this deadly disease.

### References

1. A leading product development partnership (PDP) in the field of antimalarial drug research and development [www.mmv.org](http://www.mmv.org)
2. Valecha N, et al. An open-label, randomised study of dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine versus artesunate-mefloquine for falciparum malaria in Asia. *PLoS One*. 5(7):e11880 (2010).  
Bassat Q, et al. (2009) Dihydroartemisinin-Piperaquine and Artemether-Lumefantrine for Treating Uncomplicated Malaria in African Children: A Randomised, Non-Inferiority Trial. *PLoS ONE* 4(11): e7871. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0007871.
3. <http://www.mmv.org/newsroom/news/eurartesim%C2%AE-reaches-cambodia>.
4. INESS: The INDEPTH Effectiveness and Safety Studies of Anti-malarial Drugs in Africa aims to enable African researchers to carry out large Phase IV trials.