

## **Mundipharma opens its doors to local schools to inspire the next generation of scientists**

**Cambridge, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018** – Cambridge based companies within the Mundipharma network of independent associated companies are marking science week by welcoming school children from across the county to its offices to learn more about an initiative that aims to inspire and educate the future generation by exploring the medicine making process.

The network's Science Ambassadors Programme, which has been developed in line with objectives from the national STEM programme (science, technology, engineering and maths) is now in its 12th year and this year alone, will work with approximately 4,500 primary school children to take them through a series of tasks including exploring the sensory activities of the brain and how science is applied to keeping people healthy.

The week will focus on older primary school children as evidence<sup>1</sup> has shown that stimulating interest in children at this age supports them in considering a career in STEM when they go into secondary school. However, the broader programme is open to children of all ages. The initiative not only looks to inspire children towards science but also aims to compliment education where practical experience of science can support a child's academic teaching and encourage stronger performance. In fact, 93% of teachers believe that employer engagement activities have a positive impact on children's academic achievement<sup>2</sup>. Nationally, the STEM programme has been shown to increase young people's engagement in STEM by 90%<sup>3</sup>.

Lisa Taylor, Mundipharma STEM Ambassador coordinator, commented, "The combination of school and workplace experience is powerful for a child's development. The Science Ambassadors programme enables Mundipharma to both inspire a generation of future scientists and engage with the local community. As one of Cambridge's larger employers, we are delighted to be able to nurture school children's thirst for knowledge through an invigorating and educational science experience and this is an important part of Mundipharma's ongoing commitment to support the development of future scientists. We believe this is important to Mundipharma's work to develop medicines that create value for patients, payers and wider healthcare systems."

**-Ends-**



**Notes to editors:**

**About the Mundipharma network**

The Mundipharma global network of privately-owned independent associated companies was founded in 1956 by doctors, has a presence in over 120 countries worldwide. We are focused on developing business partnerships to identify and accelerate patient access to medicines across specialist driven primary (respiratory, diabetes) and secondary care (biosimilars, pain and oncology) platforms.

Consistent with our entrepreneurial heritage, we like to think we see what others don't by challenging conventional wisdom and asking different and challenging questions. By working in partnership with all our stakeholders, the Mundipharma network develops medicines that create value for patients, payers and wider healthcare systems.

For more information please visit: [www.mundipharma.com](http://www.mundipharma.com) or contact:

**Alison Dyson**

**Mundipharma**

[alison.dyson@mundipharma.com](mailto:alison.dyson@mundipharma.com)

Tel: 44 (0) 1223 397346

---

<sup>1</sup> Pearson. CBI The Voice of Business. Changing the pace CBI/ Pearson education and skills survey p.22 2013

<sup>2</sup> Elnaz T. Kashefpakdel, Jordan Rehill and Anthony Mann. June 2017. Making the grade *Does involvement in activities with employers impact the academic achievement of young people? Research Summary*

<sup>3</sup> STEM Ambassadors. *Making an Impact* report p.4 2016