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PRESS RELEASE

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Cameron's approach towards pharmaceutical innovation is only part of the equation

The Stockholm Network, a think tank specialising in innovation and healthcare research, welcomes the new reforms announced today by the Prime Minister that aim to boost life science innovation in the UK by strengthening public-private partnerships but argues that they do not go far enough.

While the Prime Minister's blueprint currently focuses on speeding up innovation and the development of new technologies, it also needs to consider how best to increase the uptake of these innovations once they have reached the market.

A new paper published today by the Stockholm Network, suggests that the current healthcare environment in Europe, including in the UK, is subject to many hurdles especially in pricing and reimbursement, which may be hindering our innovation potential, as well as affecting patient choice.

Paradoxically, the same sort of medicines that would be developed as a result of the new programme announced by David Cameron, may not be deemed to be cost-effective or sufficiently valuable by the DoH and NICE, as well as by similar bodies in Europe.

“To solve this problem there is a need for far greater policy synergy. The British government should focus both on the need to encourage future innovation and on ensuring that present innovations are sufficiently endorsed and utilised” commented Stockholm Network’s Director of Research, Dr Meir Pugatch. “Only by adopting a more holistic policy approach will the true value of innovation be leveraged to the benefit of patients”, he said.

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Notes to Editors:

The Stockholm Network is the leading pan-European think tank and market oriented network. More information can be found at: <http://www.stockholm-network.org>

The new Stockholm Network report, *Which Price is Right? Regulating the cost of pharmaceuticals in Europe and North America*, is available at: http://www.stockholm-network.org/downloads/publications/Which_Price_is_Right.pdf

Information on the Stockholm Network HTA and pharmaceutical pricing programme can also be found at: <http://www.stockholm-network.org/Conferences-and-Programmes/Health-and-Welfare/HTA-Pricing>