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News Insight Healthcare

Africa and Middle East

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The "News Insight Healthcare" newsletter aims at collecting news and developing insights on the pharmaceutical sector in the Middle East and Africa.

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- GE Healthcare joins high-profile vaccine collaboration to explore vaccine self-sufficiency and pandemic preparedness in Saudi Arabia as part of 2030 Vision.

Latest news: market developments, players and regulations

Oman insurance company launches its exclusive healthcare wellness programme 'Livfit'

- Oman Insurance Company has launched LivFit, a wellness initiative to inspire healthy living. The mission of the initiative is to develop and implement health programmes that raise awareness about various diseases, support early detection and encourage insured members' physical and mental well-being.
- The launch of LivFit will help to bridge the gap between people's health and wellbeing goals and the level of support and information available. Based on a research done by Oman Insurance Company and Bupa Global last year, 89% of UAE residents believe they could live a healthier life. Furthermore, nearly 40% of respondents claim they do not have sufficient time to manage their wellbeing and 58% of these respondents state work commitments are the main barrier to doing so. Despite this, 80 per cent of respondents would like more information about their health and wellbeing.

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Egypt: Cleopatra hospital puts 40m shares at EGP 8.75 to 11.88 per share

- Cleopatra Hospital Company revealed on Wednesday that the guide price for the initial public offering (IPO) in the Egyptian Exchange (EGX) will range between EGP 8.75 and EGP 11.88 per share, noting that the final price of the IPO may be less than the guide price.
- The company disclosed in a press release last Thursday that it will offer a maximum of 40m ordinary shares. This number represents 25% of the total equity capital of the hospital that is registered in the EGX.

[Read more - Daily News Egypt](#)

Africa: fight against hypertension intensifies, success recorded

- The battle to contain the scourge of hypertension in Africa is intensifying as stories of success continue to emerge on improved access to treatment and consistent supply of low-priced, affordable medicines.
- AstraZeneca, a global, innovation-driven biopharmaceutical international company, whose HEALTHY HEART AFRICA programme has won ground in Kenya in tackling the disease of hypertension, plans to expand the project to cover many countries in the continent.
- The company is committed to addressing the hypertension burden in Africa - where less than 10% of the 80 million patients have access to treatment by supporting the development of HEALTHY HEART AFRICA.

Genomics Middle East (GenoME) conference will come to the UAE for the first time in October to shape the future of personalized medicine

- For the first time ever, the Genomics Middle East (GenoME) Conference comes to the UAE on 31 October after its successful launch in Saudi Arabia earlier in May.
- GenoME seeks to empower patients and doctors with extremely powerful genetic information that now can be more affordably unlocked. Currently, researchers are taking the potential of the genome and translating it into medical progress.
- GenoME, organized by HIMSS Middle East, launched a powerful international event that gathered opinion leaders and international solution providers Intel, EMC and Alliance Global in May.

[Read more - PR Newswire](#)

South Africa's Aspen Pharmacare signs U.S. supply deal with ANI

- Aspen Pharmacare has signed a distribution and supply agreement with ANI Pharmaceuticals to sell a female cancer treatment in the United States.
- Aspen has expanded rapidly outside its home market in the last decade, supplying branded and generic pharmaceuticals to more than 150 countries. It now generates only about a quarter of its sales in South Africa.

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Israel: Oramed says oral insulin succeeds in mid-stage type 2 diabetes trial

- Tiny Israeli drug-maker Oramed Pharmaceuticals Inc. said its experimental oral insulin succeeded in significantly reducing night-time blood glucose in patients with type 2 diabetes, according to initial data from a mid-stage trial.
- The result is likely to surprise many skeptics who did not believe insulin could be delivered orally because they doubted it could survive the onslaught of digestive juices so it could have the intended effect. Oramed uses a protective coating and a high-enough dose of insulin so that most of it can be destroyed and still deliver a clinically beneficial amount of the hormone.

[Read more - Reuters](#)

Healthcare developments in the GCC could help drive demand for specialist materials

- Healthcare is a huge industry in the GCC, with one forecast estimating the care it

provides to be worth some \$55.4bn this year alone. As demand for care rises, in line with population growth and improved standards of living, further investment in hospital and clinic infrastructure will be needed to keep up with this growing requirement.

- In Dubai the private sector healthcare industry is expected to need an additional 1500 beds by 2020, according to estimates from Colliers International, an increase in capacity likely to translate into an investment of some \$1.5bn.

[Read more - Saudi Gazette](#)

Agility wins five-year YIACO contract

- Agility, a leading global logistics provider, won a five-year contract with medical and pharmaceutical supplier YIACO Medical Company to provide specialized warehousing and other services in support of YIACO's work in the healthcare industry for both public and private sectors.
- Agility is to store medicines and medical equipment supplied by YIACO and handle administration of the Ministry of Health's stamp on orders filled by YIACO.

[Read more - Agility](#)

Netcare still positive on public-private health partnership

- Private hospital group Netcare says it remains optimistic about the scope for providing services to state patients in SA, despite the hostility expressed by Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi at the Competition Commission's health market inquiry.
- "We think (National Health Insurance) is a real opportunity to partner with government in improving access and quality of care," Netcare CEO Richard Friedland told investors on Monday, as the company released its results for the six months to March 31. "We have a decade-and-a-half of experience with working with the British government in a variety of initiatives — be it (shortening) waiting lists, building facilities and running five-year contracts, or the provision of services," he said.

[Read more - Business Day](#)

South Africa's Netcare reports H1 profit rise helped by robust home market

- South Africa's second-largest private hospital group Netcare reported an 11 percent rise in half-year profit on Monday as a strong showing at home offset weak demand in the United Kingdom.
- Netcare, which runs Britain's largest private hospital network, BMI Healthcare, said

headline earnings per share rose to 90.3 cents in the six months to 31 March from 81.4 cents a year earlier.

[Read more - Eyewitness News](#)

Nigeria: government urged to improve primary healthcare

- Programme Officer, DevComs Abiodun Owo, noted that improving primary healthcare is the collective responsibility for both government and individuals.
- She stated that if government can invest more in primary healthcare, it would reduce malaria, fever and diarrhea cases recorded. "Government needs to employ more doctors and nurses including midwives to ensure improvement in primary healthcare. Human resources in healthcare need training for capacity building among the healthcare workers" Owo added.

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Saudi health exhibition 2016 to enhance healthcare, safety

- On its fourth edition, the three-day Saudi Health Exhibition and Conference 2016, the Kingdom's largest healthcare exhibition, with the overall theme of 'Healthcare Transformation in Saudi Arabia' was launched on May 16.
- More than 8,000 visitors were recorded on the first day. On behalf of Health Minister Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah, Deputy Minister for Health Affairs Hamad bin Muhammad Al-Duweila opened the show in the presence of 12 foreign ambassadors at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center.
- Sponsored by Saudi Aramco (main sponsor), Siemens Healthineers, Dräger (platinum sponsors) and Massimo (gold sponsor) in addition to a number of strategic partners and supporting bodies, Saudi Health 2016 is considered the largest professional gathering for key players in the health field from both the public and private sectors.

[Read more - Saudi Daily Record](#)

Qatar: medical congress to discuss opportunities to make equipment

- DOHA: Several interesting topics, including opportunities for manufacturing medical equipment in Qatar, will be discussed at Qatar International Medical Congress (QIMC) 2016 to be held from Wednesday to Friday.
- QIMC 2016 will offer unprecedented opportunities for health professionals to discuss in detail the latest technological and scientific discoveries in the diagnosis of cancers and epidemic diseases, as well as the latest scientific and medical technologies available in the Qatari market.

South Africa seeks price cut for Roche's Herceptin cancer drug

- South Africa is in talks with Swiss pharmaceutical firm Roche to reduce the price of its breast cancer drug Herceptin, which currently costs 500,000 rand (\$33,000) a year to treat one person and is unaffordable to most women, the health minister said.
- Recently the government started free vaccinations of young girls against the sexually acquired human papilloma virus (HPV), which causes about 70 percent of cervical cancers. It had previously negotiated a lower fee with manufacturer, GlaxoSmithKline.

[Read more - Reuters Africa](#)

Dubai's Abraaj exits investment in tunisian pharma firm

- Dubai-based Abraaj Group has announced that it has successfully exited its investment in Tunisian pharmaceutical company, Unité de fabrication de médicaments, through an initial public offering on the Tunis Stock Exchange.
- The IPO was priced at 11.8 Tunisian dinars per share, implying a market capitalisation of TND300 million (\$150 million). The IPO was oversubscribed in the books by 32.6 times – the highest ever recorded for the Tunis Stock Exchange.

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EFG-Hermes starts promoting Cleopatra Hospital's IPO in four international markets

- Cleopatra Hospital will start promoting its initial public offering (IPO) in mid-May, said the vice president of investment company EFG-Hermes's promotion sector, Mohamed Abou Samra.
- The company disclosed in a press release that the beginning of the private and public IPO procedures is for a maximum of 40m shares out of the hospital's capital shares. This number represents 25% of the total equity capital of the hospital, which is registered in the Egyptian Exchange (EGX) under CLHO.CA.
- The company targets collecting EGP 500m to 600m from the IPO in the EGX, he said. From the outcome of the targeted IPO and the number of shares scheduled to be offered, the final price of the share is expected to range between EGP 12.5 to 15.

[Read more - Daily News Egypt](#)

Addressing the health care needs of Cameroon's most vulnerable populations

- Over the past several years, joint efforts on behalf on the Cameroonian government

and international organizations have led to significant progress in combating malnutrition and maternal and infant mortality in Cameroon. However, this progress masks sharp disparities between the regions in the south and those in the north, where close to 20% of children die before reaching their fifth birthday.

- A pilot project is addressing health challenges using performance-based financing to encourage hospitals and health centres to improve their services.

[Read more - World Bank](#)

Nigeria: Invivo to provide free healthcare to 2.5 Million Nigerians annually

- The spate of drug abuse, poor diagnosis and lack of access to quality healthcare among Nigerians leave much to be desired.
- In what seems like a rescue mission to improve the quality of health care in Nigeria by working within the core principles of primary health care as recommended by the World Health Organisation, INVIVO Health & Beauty stores introduced a one-stop destination for all health and beauty needs with over 10,000 Nigerians treated free of charge within one year in its three stores located in Lagos, Abuja and Ibadan.

[Read more - All Africa](#)

Nigeria's healthcare challenges present investment opportunities

- The Managing Director, The Bridge Clinic, Dr. Richardson Ajayi, has called on stakeholders in the international healthcare industry to look at the health issues in Nigeria and other developing countries as opportunities for investment.
- Ajayi, who made the call in his presentation at the 2016 Healthcare Business International Conference, held at the Royal College of Physicians, Regent's Park, London recently, said that a private sector-driven service delivery holds the future in the Nigerian healthcare sector.

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Israel: Frutarom makes fifth acquisition of 2016

- With 17 new acquisitions in the past 17 months, the world's seventh-biggest flavouring & fragrance firm is aiming for \$2 billion in annual sales by 2020.
- Frutarom paid \$6 million for the company (including its plant in Stadthagen, about 100 miles south of Hamburg), and assumed the company's debt of \$2.2 million.
- Extrakt Chemie is Frutarom's fifth acquisition so far this year. In 2015, Frutarom acquired 12 companies – meaning that on average, the company has bought one

new company in each of the last 17 months.

[Read more - Time of Israel](#)

Israeli pharma company provides rare disease drug for free after it can't find patients

- Israel-based Taro Pharmaceuticals will distribute its rare disease drug Keveyis free of charge, after negligible sales and difficulty identifying patients. Taro will continue to manufacture the drug, but all commercial sales and marketing will be halted.
- Approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in August 2015, Keveyis treats a hereditary paralytic disorder known as primary periodic paralysis. An estimated 5,000 patients are affected in the U.S., but many go undiagnosed - creating an apparently unsurmountable hurdle for Taro's commercialization plans.

[Read more - BioPharma Dive](#)

Namibia: Geka pharma joins fight against cancer

- Geka Pharma donated N\$100,000 to the Children Fighting Cancer in Namibia (CHICA) fund of the Cancer Association of Namibia earlier this week.
- The donation will go towards the fund supporting Children Fighting Cancer in Namibia (CHICA), and is earmarked specifically for less-fortunate young Namibians, who need nappies, nutritional supplements, and food and formula milk products.

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Mergers & Acquisitions in The healthcare sector: an operator's perspective

- Despite oil prices experiencing a sharp decline and the regional economy bracing for a challenging period, transactional activity in the healthcare sector in the UAE and across the GCC has been at an all-time high. One of the key players that we have had the privilege of working with has been NMC Health plc, a UAE grown family business turned multi-national healthcare giant listed on the London Stock Exchange.
- NMC has entered into deals to complete five significant acquisitions in the last twelve months, including four acquisitions in the GCC and one acquisition of a fertility clinic in Spain. We sat down with Abhay Kumar, Assistant Vice President of Corporate Investments at NMC, to gain his insight into a client's perspective of the M&A landscape in the region.

[Read more - Clyde&Co](#)

Health experts demand 15% budgetary allocation to healthcare

- Health experts at the launch of the "Make Naija Stronger" campaign in Lagos on Monday painted a pathetic picture of the state of healthcare in Nigeria and unanimously agreed that the country has no public health system.
- The "Make Naija Strong" is an initiative of the anti-poverty organisations and other partners such as the Africa Health, Human and Social Development (Afri-Dev) to demand that the Nigerian government fulfils its promise of allocating 15 per cent of its budget to health during the Abuja Declaration 15 years ago.

[Read more - All Africa](#)

Innovus Pharma signs exclusive licence and distribution agreement with BroadMed for EjectDelay in Lebanon.

- Innovus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ("Innovus Pharma"), an emerging commercial stage pharmaceutical company that delivers safe, innovative and effective over-the-counter medicine and consumer care products to improve men and women's health and respiratory diseases announced today that it has entered into an exclusive license and distribution agreement with BroadMedSAL, a Lebanese company ("BroadMed").
- Under the agreement, Innovus Pharma granted to BroadMed an exclusive license to market and sell Innovus product EjectDelay® indicated for treatment of premature ejaculation in Lebanon. Innovus Pharma is eligible to receive up to \$6.2 million in upfront and sales milestone payments plus transfer price.

[Read more - Market Wired](#)

Guatemalan pharmaceutical company looking to expand into Egypt

- Guatemalan pharmaceutical company Grupo Pharma is looking forward to investing in the Egyptian market to provide medicines at reasonable prices for those on a low-income, the company's director Rodolfo Luna del Pinal announced.
- The businessman considers that Egypt, which has a population of 90 million, represents a large market for his "Farmacias de la Comunidad," which means Community Pharmacies, as 25% of Egyptians live below the poverty line, according to UN estimates.

[Read more - Latin American Herald Tribune](#)

Israel: Intec Pharma receives approval for US\$5.2 million grant

- Intec Pharma Ltd., a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing drugs based on its proprietary drug delivery platform technology, the Accordion Pill, announced that the Israeli National Authority for Technological Innovation (NATI)

approved a grant of up to NIS 20 million (US\$5.2 million) in connection with company's 2016 research and development program.

- The majority of this grant is allocated for the pivotal Phase III clinical trial for its lead product candidate, the Accordion Pill Carbidopa / Levodopa for the treatment of Parkinson's disease symptoms in advanced Parkinson's disease patients.

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GE Healthcare joins high-profile vaccine collaboration to explore vaccine self-sufficiency and pandemic preparedness in Saudi Arabia as part of 2030 Vision

- GE Healthcare is entering into a vaccine collaboration with the National Industrial Clusters Development Program (NICDP) under the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources, SaudiVax and King Saud University, to enable vaccine self-sufficiency and pandemic preparedness in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).
- SaudiVax and its partner PnuVax, with the support of GE Healthcare, has started a design study aimed at establishing a multipurpose vaccine and monoclonal antibody manufacturing facility in Riyadh to help develop a fully-fledged life sciences industry in the Kingdom and potentially create more than 1,500 new jobs.

[Read more - GE Imagination at Work](#)

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