Press Release

Shire and Foundation Fighting Blindness Announce New Research Agreement
--For Rare Eye Disease First Appearing in Childhood or Adolescence--

Lexington, Mass. and **Columbia, Md. – May 4, 2015** – Shire plc (LSE: SHP, NASDAQ: SHPG) and the Foundation Fighting Blindness today announced a new agreement focused on furthering research for a novel treatment for autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa (adRP), a rare genetic disease that usually first occurs in late childhood or adolescence and is followed by the progressive loss of peripheral vision. There are no currently approved treatment options for adRP.

"This agreement is an example of the creative approaches in early-stage rare disease research and development that we're taking at Shire," said Albert Seymour, Shire Senior Vice President of Global Research and Nonclinical Development. "Both organizations have a strong, shared commitment to unearthing and developing innovative treatments in areas of significant, unmet medical need."

As part of the agreement, the Foundation Fighting Blindness and its research partners will provide Shire with expert knowledge and scientific background regarding adRP, as well as pertinent clinical information that could be useful in the development of a drug to treat adRP. Backed by its scientific advisory board, the Foundation Fighting Blindness will also provide counsel as requested on the pre-clinical and/or clinical development of Shire compounds in development for the treatment of adRP.

Shire is compensating the Foundation Fighting Blindness for its considerable expertise in early-stage drug discovery and development, as well as making available it significant expertise and experience with the submission of investigational new drug applications.

"Autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa is a rare, inherited disease that has a significant impact on patients and their families as they navigate the challenges associated with severe vision loss," said Patricia Zilliox, chief drug development officer, Foundation Fighting Blindness Clinical Research Institute. "Through our agreement with Shire, we are excited to drive research and development and extend our expertise to dedicated partners working to accelerate treatments for those living with retinal diseases."

About Autosomal Dominant Retinitis Pigmentosa
Autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa (adRP) is one form of retinitis pigmentosa (RP), a group of inherited diseases that cause a decline in vision as photoreceptor cells in the retina degenerate. Approximately 75,000 people worldwide are affected by adRP. This form of RP is characterized by the gradual onset of night blindness in late childhood or adolescence, followed by progressive loss of peripheral vision. Many people with the disease may become legally blind. In adRP, when one parent is affected and is the only parent with a mutated gene, the child has a 50 percent chance of being affected through the inheritance of the mutated gene from the parent. There are no currently approved treatment options for adRP.

About Shire
Shire enables people with life-altering conditions to lead better lives.

Our strategy is to focus on developing and marketing innovative specialty medicines to meet significant unmet patient needs.

We focus on providing treatments in Rare Diseases, Neuroscience, Gastrointestinal and Internal Medicine and are developing treatments for symptomatic conditions treated by specialist physicians in other targeted therapeutic areas, such as Ophthalmics.

www.shire.com

About Foundation Fighting Blindness
The Foundation Fighting Blindness is a national non-profit organization driving the research that will lead to preventions, treatments and cures for retinitis pigmentosa, age-related macular degeneration, Usher syndrome and the entire spectrum of retinal diseases that affect more than 10 million Americans. Since 1971, the Foundation Fighting Blindness has raised nearly $600 million as the leading non-governmental funder of inherited retinal research. Breakthrough Foundation Fighting Blindness-funded studies using gene therapy have restored significant vision in children and young adults who were previously blind, paving the way for additional clinical trials to treat a variety of retinal diseases. The Foundation Fighting Blindness also has 50 chapters that provide support, information and resources to affected individuals and their families in communities across the country.

For further information please contact:

For Shire:
Investor Relations
Sarah Elton-Farr
seltonfarr@shire.com
+44 1256 894157

For Shire:
Media
Gwen Fisher
gfisher@shire.com
+1 484 595 9836

For Foundation Fighting Blindness:
Media
Bob Szafranski
Edelman on behalf of the Foundation Fighting Blindness
bob.szafranski@edelman.com
+ 312 240 2687