

## Shire Recognizes HAE Day with Launch of Interactive Website Calling for Inspirational Wishes

**Zug, Switzerland – 15 May 2015** – Shire plc (LSE: SHP, NASDAQ: SHPG) today announced, in recognition of the fourth annual **hae day :-)** (16 May), the launch of a new educational website as part of its hereditary angioedema (HAE) awareness campaign *Me, Not HAE*. The interactive site supports the HAE community by enabling the sharing of stories of inspiration and helping raise awareness of the realities of living with HAE. The *Me, Not HAE* campaign, which was initially launched on **hae day :-)** in 2014, focuses on finding innovative ways to share personal stories from people living with HAE to help inspire the community at large while also driving education and awareness of this rare condition.

In conjunction with the campaign and to recognize **hae day :-)** 2015, Shire is inviting all site visitors to share a wish or message of inspiration with the HAE community from 16 to 30 May. Each wish submitted online will add a leaf to a virtual HAE Wish Tree, building a picture of hope for those living with this condition. Wishes can be made at: [www.MeNotHAE.com](http://www.MeNotHAE.com)

“Shire is dedicated to raising awareness of HAE and recognizes the importance of sharing inspirational messages and stories as a way to encourage and show our support for those living with this challenging condition,” said Emmanuel Dulac, Head of the Rare Disease Business Unit at Shire. “We are very pleased to launch this new site in support of this rare disease community on the occasion of hae day.”

HAE is a rare and life-threatening genetic condition affecting about 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 50,000 people.<sup>1-4</sup> Symptoms include unpredictable swelling in various parts of the body including the extremities, face, abdomen and upper airways.<sup>1-5</sup>

“People living with HAE often feel isolated, so sharing personal stories and messages of hope will help unite the community and strengthen its collective voice,” said Anthony Castaldo, president of the International Patient Organization for C1 Inhibitor Deficiencies (HAEi). “This new site not only offers visitors the chance to learn more about HAE, but to also contribute messages of hope for the community in support of hae day.”

HAEi is an advocacy organization dedicated to raising awareness of HAE around the world. Each year on 16 May, **hae day :-)** aims to raise global awareness of this condition among the general public and medical community, to help ensure better care, and earlier and more accurate diagnosis for those living with HAE.<sup>6</sup>

“We are proud to help unite the global HAE community and to foster increased awareness of the condition on hae day,” said Henrik Balle Boysen, executive director of the HAEi. “It is our hope that hae day, along with supportive initiatives including this new educational website, will ultimately help lead to more accurate diagnoses.”

### About HAE

HAE is a rare, genetic disorder that results in recurring attacks of edema (swelling) in parts of the body.<sup>1,2</sup> HAE mainly affects the skin, abdomen and less frequently causes life-threatening attacks, due to obstruction in the upper airways.<sup>1-2,5,7-8</sup>

Patients with HAE are prone to swelling due to an underlying deficiency in a protein called C1 esterase inhibitor (C1-INH).<sup>1,9-11</sup> C1-INH is part of a pathway in the body which controls the production of the protein bradykinin.<sup>9-15</sup> During a swelling attack, the overproduction of bradykinin increases the permeability of blood vessels, causing fluids to ‘leak’ into the surrounding tissue and results in swelling.<sup>12</sup>

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

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 we are developing treatments for symptomatic conditions treated by specialist physicians in other targeted therapeutic areas, such as Ophthalmics.

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