



Universities Allied For Essential Medicines (UAEM)

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PRESS RELEASE

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Students hold international week of action to demand “Medicines for People, Not for Profits”

In the first week of November, students across Europe and the world will hold a week of action to highlight the failures of the current system of pharmaceutical research and raise awareness for existing alternatives.

“The current system of pharmaceutical research is failing. Diseases affecting the poor are ignored, and millions of people die needlessly because they cannot access the life saving treatment they need”, said Andrea Mauracher, a recent medical graduate from the University of Zurich and one of the key voices behind the campaign. She added: *“Through ‘Access to Medicines Week’, we want to tell universities and politicians that a different model for providing medicines is possible.”*

Activities for the week will include film screenings, panel debates, workshops, and flash-mobs as well as a flurry of social media activity under #a2mweek. Throughout the week, students will rally support for [a petition](#) which will be delivered to university Deans across Europe.

“Universities are uniquely-placed to respond to the global crisis in access and innovation. They should champion a more equitable, needs-driven pharmaceutical research system”, said Lukas Fendel, Executive Director of UAEM’s European branch. *“We are adding the voices of students and researchers to support calls by the World Health Organisation, Doctors Without Borders, and many others. We need medicines that are made for people, not for profits,”* he added.

Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) is a global network of students and young researchers across the globe, working to improve access to medicines by demanding policy change at their universities, governments, and at an international level. Recent advocacy work by the organisation has included submissions to the UN and European Parliament, delegations to the World Health Assembly, research on the affordability of Hepatitis C medicines, and an acclaimed report card measuring the commitment of universities to promoting Global Health.

Details about the week, and a list of all planned events occurring in Europe are available on the Access to Medicines Week website: www.a2m-week.org

CONTACT: Christopher Redd christopher.redd@students.pcmd.ac.uk (+447759840956); Lukas Fendel lfendel@uaem.org (+493031173391); Andrea Mauracher a.a.mauracher@gmail.com