



March 16, 2017

## Horizon Pharma plc Announces "UCD in Common" for the Urea Cycle Disorder (UCD) Community

DUBLIN, Ireland, March 16, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Horizon Pharma plc (NASDAQ:HZNP), a biopharmaceutical company focused on improving patients' lives by identifying, developing, acquiring and commercializing differentiated and accessible medicines that address unmet medical needs, today announced the launch of [UCD in Common](#), an initiative for people impacted by a urea cycle disorder (UCD), a rare genetic disease characterized by toxic levels of ammonia in the blood.<sup>1</sup>

Created in collaboration with people living with a UCD, their families, caregivers and healthcare professionals, *UCD in Common* offers supportive, educational and interactive resources. A [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) provide shareable videos and lifestyle tips as well as low-protein recipes for people living with a UCD who must restrict their protein intake because of its effect of elevating ammonia levels.

"*UCD in Common* is a labor of love for those of us who collaborated with Horizon on its creation," said Guadalupe M., mother of a young daughter with a UCD and one of 13 members of Horizon Pharma's UCD patient and caregiver working group. "In working together with other families, we noticed many challenges we had in common at different stages of our journey. As the initiative evolves, we're excited to hear from more families so that we can find strength through our individual experiences and inspire others to confidently face the challenges of managing a UCD."

A UCD is a rare genetic disorder that affects approximately 1 in 35,000 live births in the United States.<sup>1</sup> It is caused by an enzyme deficiency in the urea cycle, a process that is responsible for converting excess ammonia from the bloodstream and ultimately removing it from the body.<sup>1</sup> Because of this, people with a UCD experience hyperammonemia, or elevated ammonia levels in their blood that can then reach the brain where it can cause irreversible brain damage, coma or death. UCD symptoms may first occur at any age depending on the severity of the disorder, with more severe defects presenting earlier in life.<sup>1</sup>

"At Horizon we have a long-term commitment to helping people living with rare diseases in ways that go beyond our medicines, and we've used our resources to empower the UCD community to generate ideas and create tools that will help others living with this rare, isolating disease," said Dave Happel, executive vice president, Orphan Business Unit, Horizon Pharma plc. "We are grateful for the opportunity to work with such a passionate group of patients, caregivers and families whose journeys and insights led to the development of *UCD in Common*."

### **About Horizon Pharma plc**

Horizon Pharma plc is a biopharmaceutical company focused on improving patients' lives by identifying, developing, acquiring and commercializing differentiated and accessible medicines that address unmet medical needs. The Company markets 11 medicines through its orphan, rheumatology and primary care business units. For more information, please visit [www.horizonpharma.com](http://www.horizonpharma.com). Follow [@HZNPplc](#) on Twitter or view careers on our [LinkedIn](#) page.

### References:

1. Ah Mew N, Lanpher BC, Gropman A, et al.; Urea Cycle Disorders Consortium. Urea Cycle Disorders Overview. 2003 Apr 29 [Updated 2015 Apr 9]. In: Pagon RA, Adam MP, Ardinger HH, et al., editors. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2017. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1217/>

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Source: Horizon Pharma plc

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