WIPO MAGAZINE: Toll-Free drug verification

Mobile phone technology is also proving an effective means of safeguarding consumers against the scourge of counterfeit drugs.

Read more

- Ghanaian SMS Start Up Tackles Fake Drug Scourge
- Kenya launches mobile phone application to fight counterfeit Medicines
- Fighting Counterfeit Drugs With Mobile Technology
- mPedigree to combat counterfeit drugs
- Myjoyonline: West African Innovation Hits Global Stage
- Nature: Can science help Millennium Development Goals succeed?

Ghanaian SMS Start Up Tackles Fake Drug Scourge

Congratulations to the Ghanaian tech company mPedigree for winning the Global Security Challenge start up award, it is a great example of very low-tech solution to very major problem.

After the awards I get to speak to Bright Simons, the man behind the ingenious system that is helping to tackle the serious blight of counterfeit drugs in Africa.

Read more

Kenya launches mobile phone application to fight counterfeit Medicines

Kenya has begun piloting a system that will make it possible for consumers to use text messages to find out if a particular medicine was wholesome or counterfeit. Kenyan minister for Medical Services, Professor Anyang Nyong'o has said.

Read more

Fighting Counterfeit Drugs With Mobile Technology

Counterfeit drugs are a huge problem in Africa and elsewhere. HP and the African social enterprise network mPedigree team up to help ensure patients that the medicine they're taking will cure them, not harm them.

HP and mPedigree, an African social enterprise network, announce today a new program that helps patients in Ghana and Nigeria verify that their medicines are genuine.

Read more

mPedigree to combat counterfeit drugs

An estimated 100,000 people die each year from taking fake drugs. The problem is particularly acute in emerging markets. A young Ghanaian entrepreneur – Bright Simons – made headlines in the last week when his African company...

Read more

WIPO MAGAZINE: Toll-Free drug verification

Mobile phone technology is also proving an effective means of safeguarding consumers against the scourge of counterfeit drugs. While it is difficult to calculate exact figures, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than 10 percent of medicines on the global market are fake, and that 25 percent of those in developing countries are counterfeit or substandard. Not only do these products claim lives on a daily basis, they increase resistance to pathogens and, as a consequence, place an even heavier burden on resource-constrained public health systems.

Read more

Myjoyonline: West African Innovation Hits Global Stage

At 12:30 p.m. on May 6, Ampem Dankwah sends a cell-phone message from the lobby of a downtown cafe in Accra, Ghana: “GH4F9H84B4.” His text opens a front in the war on sham malaria drugs.

Read more

Nature: Can science help Millennium Development Goals succeed?

As participants of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Summit took stock of stalled progress on objectives set a decade ago to ease global poverty by 2015, the UN on Wednesday announced a $40 billion dollar push, pledged by numerous nations and organizations, to prevent the deaths of as many as 16 million mothers and children in the world's poorest countries.

Read more

American University ipb: Combating Counterfeit Drugs through Text Messages

According to the Associated Press, a startup project in Ghana called mPedigree has begun offering users of pharmaceutical drugs the ability to verify that the drugs they are consuming are the genuine version and not counterfeit. With help from HP, the mPedigree system assigns unique numbers to genuine versions of malaria medicines.

Read more

The Economist: Poison pills

DRUG smugglers can expect harsh penalties nearly everywhere—if the drugs in question are heroin or cocaine. Those who smuggle counterfeit medicines, by contrast, have often faced lax enforcement and light punishment. Some governments deem drug-counterfeiting a trivial offence, little more than a common irritant. After all, whose spam filter does not groan with ads for suspiciously cheap “Viagra”?

Read more

Yahoo: Africans text message to check if drugs are real

LONDON – For Africans wondering whether the malaria drugs they've bought are real, there may soon be a quick way of finding out: sending a text message.

Across the continent, more than 30 percent of malaria medicines are estimated to be fake, and many look identical to the real thing.

Read more

The Daily Maverick: Fighting Africa's fake-drugs monster

With no money, but a wealth of innovation, Bright Simons created an SMS-based system that is helping Nigeria fight a deadly onslaught of counterfeit medicines. The remedy is so successful it is now being tested in Ghana, and considered by other African states, to stem an avalanche that’s killing hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Read more