

Living the Ferring Project Family Commitment



At Ferring, we are working on research and development programmes to address some of the greatest challenges in reproductive medicine and maternal health. We are also working to help improve access to care and treatment, and to advocate for everyone's right to build a family.

We are committed to:

- 1.** Learning from patients to improve their treatment and care
- 2.** Collaborating to reduce maternal and infant mortality
- 3.** Closing gender and racial inequality gaps in reproductive medicine and maternal health
- 4.** Working together to win hearts and minds

In this document you will find details on how Ferring is living up to each of these areas of the Ferring Project Family Commitment. To read the commitment in full click [here](#).



Learning from patients to improve their treatment and care

How are we meeting this commitment?

- **Ferring is committed to ensuring that the patient voice is heard consistently and continuously** throughout the research, development and launch of our treatments. For example, Ferring has established a global fertility council of patient group representatives and fertility advocates, to ensure that fertility patient voices are heard and the patient community can contribute to our research and development programmes and in areas such as clinical trial and protocol design, product packaging, patient-focused materials and patient support activities.
- **At global and local level, Ferring organises patient advisory boards** around different conditions in reproductive medicine and maternal health.
- **Ferring is committed to changing the lack of treatment options available for women who are pregnant or giving birth**, driven by patient needs and preferences, and continues to invest and advance the field of reproductive medicine and maternal health. As an example, in 2020 Ferring's treatment for cervical ripening was approved and launched in Japan, a milestone that was welcomed by patient advocacy groups. This was the first cervical ripening treatment approved in Japan in over 20 years, giving women in Japan greater choice of alternatives to mechanical methods of cervical ripening.





Collaborating to reduce maternal and infant mortality

How are we meeting this commitment?

- Ferring is working in collaboration with a number of leading organisations to reduce global maternal and infant mortality.
- As part of our commitment to reducing maternal mortality globally, Ferring collaborated on the largest clinical trial in postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) prevention involving nearly 30,000 women in 10 countries. The CHAMPION trial was conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO), using Ferring's heat-stable carbetocin, and funded by MSD for Mothers. Ferring has also set out its commitment to making heat-stable carbetocin available at an affordable and sustainable access price in public sector healthcare facilities in low and lower-middle income countries and is supporting advocacy at local government level for heat-stable carbetocin.
- In addition to our own research programmes on preterm birth, Ferring established a research collaboration supporting March of Dimes and its network of prematurity research centres, working to find the unknown causes of preterm birth and new ways to prevent it. Thanks to Ferring funding, the March of Dimes was able to set up its first Prematurity Research Center outside of the US, at Imperial College, London, UK.



- **Ferring also supports GreenLamp, an organization dedicated to improving conditions for mothers and babies in rural Ethiopia.** Unreliable or non-existent power supplies mean that women delivering at night may give birth in the dark, preventing midwives being able to detect or manage complications. GreenLamp works to train midwives and provide safer birthing conditions by supplying light and reliable power to rural delivery rooms through their Solar Suitcase initiative, which Ferring has committed to supporting for the next five years.
- **Ferring is also a corporate partner for the Project Hope organization** and has previously supported the set-up of Project Hope's midwife training in Philippines, aiming to reduce maternal mortality rates.
- **In China, Ferring is building partnerships with local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to deliver disease education programmes in preterm birth.** For example, in partnership with the China Red Cross, Ferring China is supporting a patient assistance programme that aims to support women suffering from recurrent miscarriage and preterm birth, with the goal of providing treatments to patients to prevent imminent preterm birth, in parallel to wider awareness raising on pregnancy and prematurity. In addition, this initiative aims to continuously improve doctors' skills in the treatment of preterm delivery and foster interest in research on preterm birth and its complications.
- **Around the world, Ferring collaborates with regional and national obstetrics societies** to support research projects, research skills development and educational programmes.





Closing gender and racial inequality gaps in reproductive medicine and maternal health

How are we meeting this commitment?

- **Ferring has long-term collaborations with patient groups and fertility advocates around the world** to understand local community challenges in both awareness of and access to IVF treatment, and to co-create campaigns and programmes to address these challenges. For example, Ferring's advocacy work with RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association, has helped over 40 million people in the US gain insurance coverage for fertility treatment and preservation since 2015. In Colombia, the Ferring led awareness and education programme PLAN M aims to empower women to better understand their own fertility and options to build a family, from egg freezing to IVF.
- **In Jamaica, Ferring has been supporting the advancement of surrogacy**, working with partners to advise the Government of Jamaica to establish a policy and legislative framework for the use of surrogacy in assisted reproductive health services.
- **A gender data gap currently exists in healthcare, with investment in the development of treatments and services for women's health significantly lower than investment in men's health.** Over 60% of our research investment is focused on the traditionally underserved and under-researched area of women's reproductive medicine and maternal health. Our current research programmes focus on conditions with high unmet need including endometriosis, pregnancy-related conditions and infertility. For example, one in 10 women of reproductive age worldwide suffer from endometriosis, an extremely painful and often debilitating condition which can also



affect fertility. Ferring is currently running two phase 2 trials for a treatment targeted at helping women with endometriosis, from both a pain perspective and fertility perspective. In total, Ferring has 13 ongoing clinical trials involving 5,000 patients in the reproductive medicine and maternal health field.

- **In addition to Ferring-run research programmes, Ferring collaborates with like-minded companies** to drive forward research and patient care. For example, Ferring and Rebiotix, a Ferring company, have a research collaboration with Karolinska Institutet focused on pregnancy loss and pre-term birth. The collaboration is investigating the role of the microbiome in these areas of high unmet need through 6 clinical studies involving approximately 6,000 women and babies. Ferring has also established a research collaboration with Igenomix to identify novel targets and disease mechanisms in infertility and pregnancy-related conditions, with the goal of developing innovative diagnostic and therapeutic strategies.
- **In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ferring set up Investigational Research Grants in Reproductive Medicine and Maternal Health (RMMH)**, designed to provide funding to gather data related to conception, pregnancy and neonatal health during the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensure that people with fertility issues and pregnant women are not forgotten in research efforts. In total, Ferring awarded 71 grants to research projects from 22 different countries.



- **As part of our commitment to dispelling the common myth that ‘infertility is a women’s issue’** and to help ensure that, in future, women do not need to undergo IVF when their male partner has a fertility issue, Ferring is researching factors contributing to male fertility issues. We currently have two Ferring-owned research projects into male fertility issues, as well as a collaboration with Chinese Academy of Sciences which includes early basic research in reproductive biology including male infertility. Ferring is also committed to working with male fertility advocates and is actively involving men in the conversation around fertility through social media activities.
- **To address racial inequalities in reproductive medicine and maternal health, Ferring has set up a racial equality taskforce** to identify the ways in which Ferring can address racial disparities in access to IVF treatment and maternal mortality in our major markets. An innovation grants fund is also being set up, to support research aimed at reducing these disparities.
- **Excessive bleeding after birth, also known as postpartum haemorrhage (PPH), is the leading direct cause of maternal mortality worldwide**, causing approximately 70,000 deaths each year – 99% of which occur in low- and lower-middle income countries. To address this inequality in maternal care, Ferring has also set out its commitment to making heat-stable carbetocin available at an affordable and sustainable access price in public sector healthcare facilities in low and lower-middle income countries and is supporting advocacy at local government level for heat-stable carbetocin.





Working together to win hearts and minds

How are we meeting this commitment?

- **As part of our Project Family Commitment, we are collaborating with people impacted by medical fertility issues and those unable to build a family without medical help**, from across the globe. Our commitment covers the full patient journey, from conception to birth, and has been shaped around the urgent needs of our patient communities.
- **Ferring conducted the global 1000 Dreams survey**, a survey in 10 countries surveying fertility patients and their partners, to better understand barriers in access to treatment. The results of this study are being analysed from both a global and local perspective, to better understand how these barriers can be addressed and removed.
- **In different countries around the world, Ferring is working to better understand and address barriers to IVF treatment**, to empower people to understand their family building options, and help them access the support they need throughout their journey.
- **In the US, Ferring has set up the Fertility House Calls programme** to virtually connect potential parents with an experienced fertility specialist, from the comfort of their own home. By enabling patients to schedule an initial consult through the platform, the programme is designed to empower people to take the first step in their fertility journey.



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- **In Australia, Ferring created the MiFertility Plan App**, a comprehensive tool to provide practical and emotional support for patients through their fertility treatment cycle.
- **Through online conversations, Ferring is helping to share stories of people going through different family building journeys**, amplifying their voices and helping to encourage empathy and understanding of fertility and family-building challenges.
- **Through our #ProjectFamily conversation, we advocate for everyone's right to build a family, and for people all over the world to be able to access the quality care and treatments they need to build a family of their own.** Examples of our campaigns include #FertilityAwks, an online series of family-building stories that uses humour to raise awareness of the challenges people face on their fertility journey and to change the conversation around fertility and family building, and #IVFandProud which aims to reduce the stigma still associated with IVF by celebrating the people and families here today thanks to IVF.
- **Ferring has also supported the International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS)** on a campaign to help people around the world who are looking to safely start or resume their fertility plans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building on our commitment

The Ferring Project Family Commitment inspires everything we do to build families worldwide. We are always exploring new ways that we can support the communities we work with. Keep an eye out for more information and follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for regular updates and contact us on projectfamily@ferring.com to discuss how we can collaborate.

