



Partnering to Advance Global Health: Advantages of the Product Development Partnership Model

The International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) is one of 17 nonprofit enterprises that embody an important new model to advance the global health field. Known as product development partnerships, or PDPs, these organizations manage resources and partnerships across public, private and philanthropic sectors to develop new health tools that save millions of lives and advance global development.

PDPs combine the business model of the private sector with the public sector's commitment to global public health. In doing so, PDPs have revitalized previously languishing research enterprises and paved the way for new research on and solutions for high-priority diseases in developing countries. These include new health technologies for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases.

Specifically, PDPs work to:

Manage resources across public and private sectors to save lives. PDPs forge strong working partnerships at the local, national and international levels. They invest substantial resources into strengthening medical research infrastructure in parts of the world where the need for new health tools is greatest.

Advance global development and public health. Product development partnerships effectively focus their efforts on products that are both affordable and suitable for use in developing countries. As such, PDPs received high marks for their impact on health in developing countries, as noted in the World Health Organization Expert Working Group 2010 report on Research and Development Financing and Coordination.

Harness innovative medical tools for developing countries. Many pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms recognize the unmet need to develop innovative medical tools that serve vulnerable populations. Some of these firms have sought out PDPs as nonprofit licensing partners that have the capacity to take products through to licensure and access. In some cases, PDPs approach larger firms seeking licensing opportunities.

Promising Progress

As of mid-2009, 17 PDPs were developing more than 122 products for HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, dengue fever, hookworm, meningitis, diarrhea, respiratory illnesses and other diseases. Of these, 90 are medicines, 20 are diagnostic products and 12 are for vector control. Some PDPs are product intermediaries having no ownership of the investigational product, while others own or have in-licensed products.

Today, PDPs, their partners and donors are overcoming a variety of challenges on the way to achieving global health and development imperatives, including:

- Maintaining funding to move portfolios forward during a global recession
- Building capacity for conducting clinical research in developing countries
- Preparing for and conducting Phase I, Phase II and Phase III clinical trials
- Mapping out regulatory pathways for new classes of products
- Ensuring access to approved products that have the potential to improve the health of millions of people in developing countries and around the world.

continued

IPM Headquarters

8401 Colesville Road, Suite 200
Silver Spring, MD 20910 USA
TEL +1-301-608-2221
FAX +1-301-608-2241

IPM Belgium

Rue du Trône/Troonstraat 98
1050 Brussels, Belgium
TEL +32(0)2-507-1231
FAX +32(0)2-507-1222

IPM South Africa

PO Box 3460
Paarl 7620, South Africa
TEL +27-21-860-2300
FAX +27-21-860-2308

IPM CTM Facility

3894 Courtney Street, Suite 170
Bethlehem, PA 18017 USA
TEL +1-484-893-1050
FAX +1-484-893-1057

www.ipmglobal.org



IPM: Partnering With Industry

Since 2004, IPM has entered into six non-exclusive, royalty-free licenses with five major pharmaceutical companies to develop, manufacture and distribute eight antiretroviral (ARV) products as microbicides in developing countries.

These royalty-free licenses ensure that any new products will be provided at little or no cost and made widely available where they are most urgently needed.

IPM has made no financial contribution for these licensing agreements, which serve as a model of public-private partnership in fostering global health solutions. As part of the microbicide drug development process, IPM pays for the costs associated with product development and works in partnership with entities from both the private and public sectors to carry out these efforts.

IPM also makes its experience available to other product developers seeking to improve global health by negotiating similar agreements with the private sector.

Compound	License	Year	Mechanism of action	IPM development stage
Dapivirine	Tibotec/Johnson & Johnson	2004	NNRTI: Reverse transcription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase I/II clinical (dapivirine ring & gel) Initiation of Phase III program expected in 2011 (dapivirine ring)
L-167, L-872, L-882	Merck	2005	CCR5: Cell Attachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preclinical
Tenofovir (IPM & CONRAD)	Gilead	2006	NRTI: Reverse transcription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preclinical (maraviroc-tenofovir combination film)
BMS793	BMS	2005	gp120: Cell attachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preclinical (vaginal tablet)
Maraviroc	Pfizer	2008	CCR5: Cell attachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced preclinical (dapivirine-maraviroc ring) Preclinical (maraviroc-tenofovir film)
L-644 peptide	Merck	2008	gp41: Cell fusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early preclinical

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