

An Overview of DNDi

May 2009



**Critical Collaboration to
Address the Needs of the Most
Neglected**

DNDi

Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative*

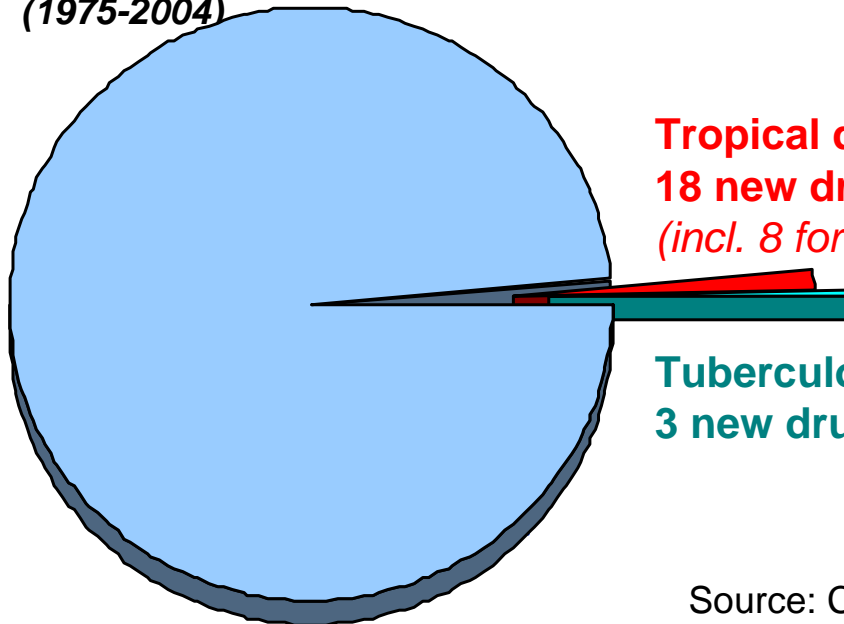
A Fatal Imbalance

Tropical diseases (including malaria) and tuberculosis account for:

- 12% of the global disease burden
- But only 1.3% of new drugs developed



(1975-2004)



Tropical diseases:
18 new drugs
(incl. 8 for malaria)

Tuberculosis:
3 new drugs

1.3%
21 new drugs
for neglected diseases

Source: Chirac P, Torreele E. *Lancet*. 2006 May 12; 1560-1561.

What's Needed to Combat NTDs?

Large scale interventions

- Lymphatic filariasis
- Leprosy
- Onchocerciasis
- Schistosomiasis
- Helminthiasis
- Trachoma
- Yaws



Rapid Impact Interventions
Improving access

Case management and development of new tools

- Human African trypanosomiasis
- Chagas diseases
- Buruli ulcer
- Leishmaniasis
- Dengue



Focused interventions
Improving innovation

What are the Neglected Tropical Diseases?

Worms - easily treatable with available tools

- Lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis)
- Schistosomiasis (bilharzia)
- Onchocerciasis (river blindness)
- Soil-transmitted helminths (worms)
- Dracunculiasis (guinea worm)

Bacterial - more work needed

- Leprosy
- Buruli ulcer
- Dengue
- Cholera
- Trachoma (eye infection causing blindness)

DNDi's Focus: the kinetoplastids

human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness)

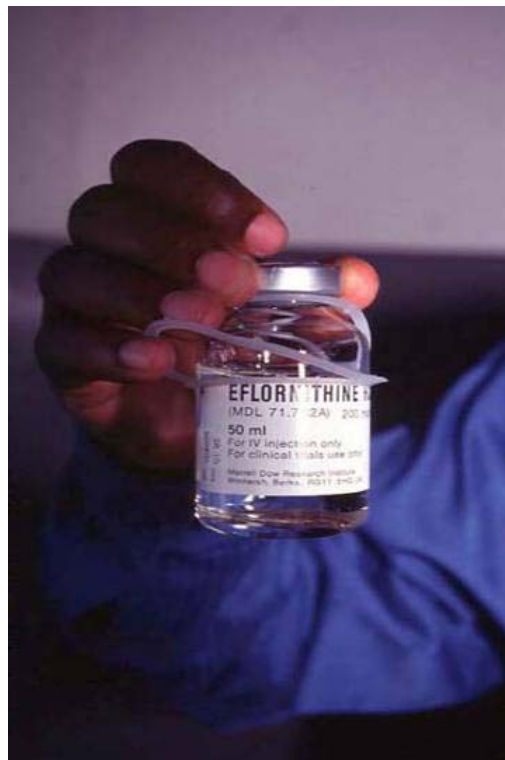
Leishmaniasis (kala azar)

Chagas disease

Neglected Diseases: Current Treatment Limitations



Melarsoprol



Eflornithine

- Ineffective (resistance)
- Toxic
- Expensive
- Painful when delivered
- Difficult to use
- Not registered in endemic regions
- Restricted by patents

We Need Safe, Effective, Easy-to-Use Drugs

DNDi's Background – Catalysed and Co-Founded by MSF

- **1999**
 - First meeting in Paris to describe the lack of R&D for neglected diseases (the day MSF received the Nobel Peace Prize)
 - MSF commits the Nobel Peace Prize money to the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Working Group
- **2001**
 - DND WG recommends the creation of DNDi
- **July 2003**
 - DNDi co-founded by MSF with a core funding commitment of 25-million Euros (2003-2008)
- **March 2007**
 - DNDi's 1st product launched – project originated by MSF in 2002
- **Ferbruary 2009**
 - MSF commitment of 18 million Euros (2009-2014)



A Needs-Driven Model for Drug Development: DNDi

- **Non-profit drug research & development (R&D) organization founded in 2003**
- **Addressing the needs of the most neglected patients**
- **Harnessing resources from public institutions, private industry and philanthropic entities**

7 Founding Partners

- Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)
- Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)
- Malaysian MOH
- Oswaldo Cruz Foundation Brazil
- Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)
- Institut Pasteur France
- WHO/TDR (permanent observer)

7 support offices



DNDi's Main Objectives

- Deliver **6 - 8 new treatments by 2014** for sleeping sickness, Chagas disease, leishmaniasis and malaria
- Establish a **robust pipeline** for future needs
- Use and strengthen existing **capacity in disease-endemic countries**
- Raise awareness and advocate for increased **public responsibility**



DNDi Portfolio-Building Model

Mission

- **Deliver 6 - 8 new treatments** by 2014 for neglected diseases, with robust pipeline
- Use and **strengthen research capacity; build awareness**

Strategy



Long-Term projects

New compounds
Existing compounds
>6 years



Medium-term projects

Therapeutic switch
"Rediscovered" compounds
3-6 years



Short-term projects

New formulations (FDC)
Geographical extensions
Co-administration
≤3 years

3 Products Making A Difference

Available

2007



ASAQ (Malaria)
Fixed-Dose
Artesunate/
Amodiaquine

Partners

sanofi-aventis
(France)

2008



ASMQ (Malaria)
Fixed-Dose
Artesunate/
Mefloquine

Farmanguinhos
(Brazil)

Cipla
(India)

2009



NECT
Nifurtimox -
Eflornithine
Co-Administration
(HAT)

**National Control
Programs**

MSF
WHO



- **Easy to Use**
- **Affordable**
- **Field-Adapted**
- **Non-Patented**

ASAQ: Making a Difference on the Ground Through MSF & Others ...

- **A**dapted
- **S**imple
- **A**ccessible
- **Q**uality



© MSF, Guines 2008

Progress made into 2009

- Prequalified by WHO
- 5.3 million treatments distributed in 2008; 20 million forecast for 2009
- Available in 24 countries

ASMQ: Available in 2008 Through Public Partnership with Brazil-Funded Farmanguinhos



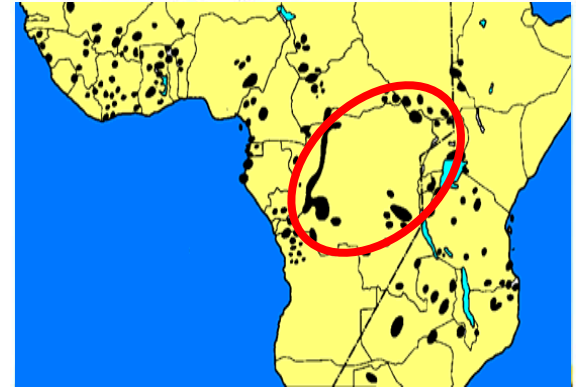
Shoklo Malaria Research Unit



- Brazil:
 - Registered in March 2008
 - Ongoing intervention study by national authorities on > 24,000 patients
- Latin America
- Asia
 - Industrial partner: Cipla
 - Ongoing & planned studies: India, **Myanmar (MSF)**
- Africa
 - Role of ASMQ?
 - Study in Tanzania

Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT) or Sleeping Sickness

- **60 million at risk** in sub-Saharan Africa
 - Primarily affects rural, remote populations
 - 3 major epidemics in 20th century – affecting up to 50% in affected villages
- Transmitted by the tsetse fly; caused by protozoal parasite *Trypanosoma brucei*
- **Difficult to diagnose**; most patients go undiagnosed until late stage of disease
 - Late stage: parasites have crossed blood-brain barrier (BBB)
- **Disease is fatal if untreated**



Existing HAT Treatments: Major Flaws

Melarsoprol: toxic yet widely used

- Arsenical drug
- 1st discovered in 1940s
- increasing resistance

1 in 20 patients die due to treatment.



Eflornithine: safe, effective, but....

- Difficult to transport

*Treatment kit containing 2 adult treatments weighs **37.6 kg** (80 lbs).*

- Difficult to administer

Treatment requires 56 slow, IV infusions every 6 hours for 14 days.



DNDi's HAT Strategy



Improving existing treatments:

⇒ **Nifurtimox-Eflornitine Combination Therapy (NECT)**

Key partners include:

- ⇒ **sanofi-aventis (eflornitine);**
- ⇒ **Bayer (nifurtimox)**
- ⇒ WHO
- ⇒ National Control Programs
- ⇒ MSF (Doctors Without Borders)
- ⇒ Swiss Tropical Institute

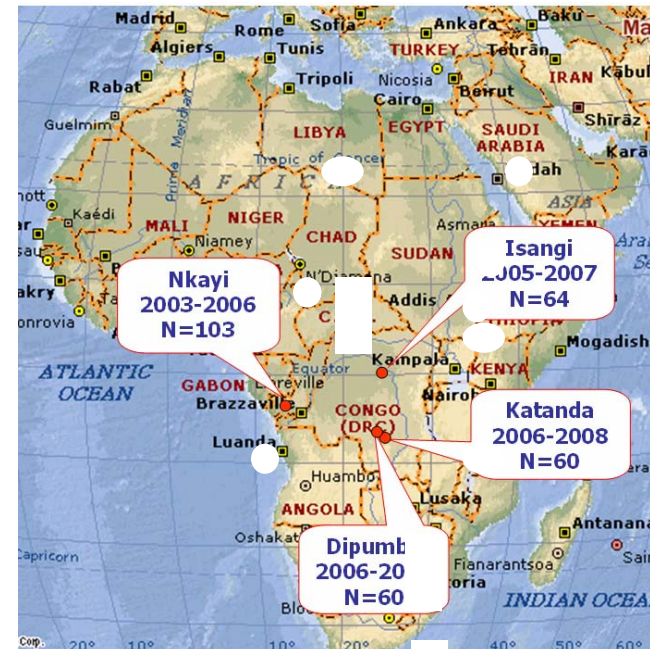


NECT: Added to WHO Essential Medicines List

Clinical Innovation: Making Better Use of Existing Drugs

**NECT (nifurtimox-eflornithine combination therapy) :
A simplified, safe & effective treatment for stage 2 HAT**

- Pivotal Phase III trial at 4 clinical sites completed after 5 years of hard work and collaboration
 - Partners included: **Epicentre, MSF, STI, HAT** control programs of DRC and RoC
 - Good safety and efficacy of NECT shown
 - MSF-DNDi-Epicentre announce results of ‘1-2 Punch Against Sleeping Sickness’ in December 2008
- Further study of NECT in ‘real-life’ settings – MSF-DNDi collaboration in study
- Work with WHO, national programmes, & MSF to facilitate availability



What Does NECT Offer?

- Comparable efficacy and safety with eflornithine (gold standard)
- Easier to administer & to transport
 - Less burden on the health infrastructure
 - More convenient for the patient
- More affordable
 - Fewer treatments and related materials
- Potentially protective against the emergence of resistance parasites
- **HOWEVER**, still two drugs with different routes of administration and 10-day tx...

DNDi's HAT Strategy

Discovery

S

LS

LO

Pre-clinical

Clinical

Available

Rediscovering existing compounds:

Key partners include:

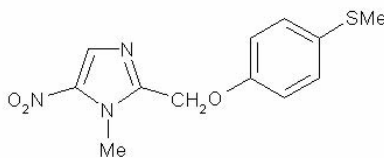
- **Swiss Tropical Institute**
- **sanofi-aventis** will insure the manufacturing, registration and distribution of the product – agmt in May 2009

Medium-term projects

Fexinidazole Entering Phase I in 2009

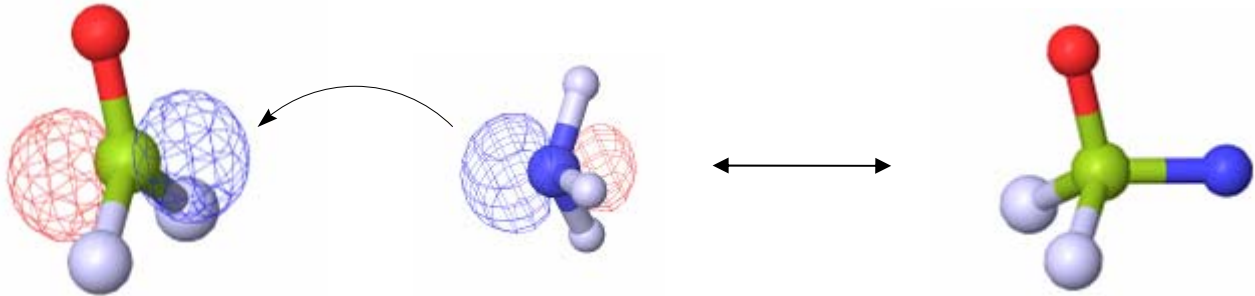
Achieved through Compound Mining

Drug candidate to become an oral, short course treatment for stage 1+ 2 sleeping sickness treatment, caused by either , *T. b. gambiense* or *T. b. rhodesiense*



- 5-nitroimidazole
- In preclinical development by Hoechst in 1980s as broad-spectrum anti-protozoal
- Oral activity, distributes to the brain
- Curative in mouse models of HAT (both acute and chronic)
- Good safety profile in animal studies, including no evidence of mammalian genotoxicity
- Preclinical development including ADME-PK, GLP-toxicology and safety pharmacology completed; prototype tablets available
- Target: initiate phase I clinical trials in 2009

DNDi's HAT Strategy



New drugs:

Trigonal Planar

Tetrahedral

⇒ **Oxaboroles:**

- innovative chemistry with potent anti-protozoal activity
- clinical candidate expected by Q4 2009

Key partners include:

- **Anacor Pharmaceutical:** access to compounds and know-how
- **Scynexis:** lead optimization

5-Year Results of DNDi

- **2 new malaria treatments** developed
- **1 new sleeping sickness combination** developed
- **Largest pipeline** ever for these diseases
- Clinical research platforms in Africa
- €114M of €274 needed raised
- On track to deliver new treatments per business plan

