IFPMA Project Summary

ECOSOC Innovation Fair 2013

1-3 July 2013, Palais des Nations, Geneva

The IFPMA will develop 4 posters that showcase R&D-based pharmaceutical industry's innovative solutions for global health.

1) R&D-Based Pharmaceutical Industry's Comprehensive Effort to Fight Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

The industry is leading a considerable amount of R&D for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Continual pharmaceutical innovation remains essential if these diseases are to be more effectively treated or prevented altogether. In 2012 our companies led 132 research projects for NTDs. This was a 40% increase over 2011, with most of these – 85% – involving partnerships. Sometimes, diseases like NTDs do not have sufficient commercial drivers to support the high risk and costs of medicine development. In these circumstances collaborative approaches can add real value in meeting R&D needs. One great example is WIPO Re:Search, where numerous pharmaceutical companies and other research and academic institutions are promoting R&D for new medicines, vaccines, and diagnostics for NTDs by making available clinical and patent data and access to experts and know-how. Another great example is the recently launched Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT), a non-profit organisation aimed at promoting the discovery and development of new health technologies for infectious diseases prevalent in developing countries – 1st partnership of its kind in Japan, GHIT is a public-private partnerships established by the Government of Japan, a consortium of Japanese pharmaceutical companies and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Taking a holistic approach involving partnerships is key to tackling neglected diseases and reducing the burden on people. In addition to R&D, IFPMA members work with the WHO and other partners to implement capacity-building efforts in developing countries. The WHO/TDR Career Development Fellowship (CDF) on clinical R&D is a great example of successful scientific collaboration. These capacity building efforts are complemented by medicine donation programs. The London Declaration represents a new, coordinated push to accelerate progress toward eliminating or controlling 10 neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by the end of the decade. Partners pledge to work together to improve the lives of the 1.4 billion people worldwide affected by NTDs. Our industry committed to donate 14 billion treatments in the next decade.

By describing successful case studies, this poster showcases our holistic approach to fight NTDs: R&D collaborations for unmet health needs, implementation of capacity-building efforts, and medicine donations programs.

2) A Check-List for Transferring Technologies for Medicines and Vaccines

Through technology transfer, R&D-based pharmaceutical companies are helping partner companies around the world to make advanced medicines and vaccines for their local markets. This is stimulating economic and social development, while also contributing to the health of recipient countries' populations. With appropriate government encouragement and continued engagement by our members, the benefits of this approach could be extended to more countries.

This poster identifies the critical enabling conditions which allow technology transfer to contribute successfully to global economic development and health.

3) R&D-Based Pharmaceutical Industry's Engagement in Mobile Health (mHealth)

As a direct response to United Nations Political Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)1, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) have jointly launched a new global program on the use of mobile and other technologies to improve the treatment and prevention of NCDs. "Be Healthy, Be Mobile" will work with partners at all levels and involve partnerships between governments, NGOs and the private sector.

With already numerous examples of mobile-based programs underway, the IFPMA joined the "Be Healthy, Be Mobile" initiative. The IFPMA will make financial contributions and will share knowledge, experience and success stories to help develop the best solutions for each mHealth for NCDs intervention. This poster highlights the various areas of applications for mHealth that have been developed by our member companies.

4) IFRC-IFPMA Partnership on Non-Communicable Disease Prevention

This poster will showcase the essentials from the global 2-year partnership between IFPMA and IFRC. This partnership will focus on NCD prevention in community-based settings through a toolkit that will allow users to identify and reduce their lifestyle risk factors that lead to chronic diseases. The intervention, designed and developed jointly by IFPMA and IFRC, is based on behavioral change methodologies and is expected to reach 3 million patients worldwide. This poster explains the methodology, the intervention, and the projected implementation of this global partnership.

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¹ Resolution A/RES/66/2