

**International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations
Fédération Internationale de l'Industrie du Médicament
Federación Internacional de la Industria del Medicamento**

**Pharmaceutical and Vaccine Research and Development
for the World Medical Needs**

Summary

The WHO Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights (IGWG), was created by the World Health Assembly in 2006 in response to concerns raised by several WHO Member States about the need for new and improved medicines to treat diseases which particularly affect developing countries.

The mandate given to the IGWG in WHA 59.24 is the following:

(1) to establish...an intergovernmental working group ... to draw up a global strategy [that] would aim, inter alia, at securing an enhanced and sustainable basis for needs-driven, essential health research and development relevant to diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries, proposing clear objectives and priorities for research and development, and estimating funding needs in this area;

This mandate covers a number of issues, including what is meant by “needs-driven, essential health research and development relevant to diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries”. If this phrase implies that the current, market-based R&D model for pharmaceuticals and vaccines is ignoring health needs, especially those that disproportionately affect developing countries, then such an implication is factually incorrect, however, as evidence in this document shows.

This paper reports on industry’s work underway in a number of categories of medicines’ research and development, ranging from those for diseases primarily affecting developing countries, medicines for children, medicines for cancer, and for various infectious diseases. An Appendix is included to describe existing industry research centers dedicated to R&D for tropical diseases. This research includes medicines in clinical and pre-clinical development for TB, malaria, African trypanosomiasis, Leishmaniasis, Dengue and Onchocerciasis.

With regard to global health needs, the international R&D-based pharmaceutical industry has been successful in developing products to address the major global causes of mortality and morbidity, including, for example, cardiovascular medicines in 8 different classes, the most effective cancer drugs in 8 classes, new antibiotics for respiratory infections, 21 HIV/AIDS drugs in 4 different classes, and new drugs in 4 different classes to treat depression.

The information in this document is publicly available and reflects actual surveys of company Projects¹. It should be noted, however, that the figures presented here are most probably an underestimation of ongoing research, given that they cover only trials conducted in the United States and, furthermore, only include products in clinical trials in human subjects (i.e., pre phase I trials are not included.) Additional and updated information can also be accessed via the IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal².

¹ See http://www.phrma.org/read_surveys/ ; for diseases primarily affecting developing countries, and industry research centers see <http://www.ifpma.org/pdf/IFPMA%20Building%20Healthier%20ENG%202007.pdf>

² Available at <http://www.ifpma.org>