



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

## News Release

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### **R&D Pharmaceutical Industry Continues to Increase Research into Neglected Diseases, in Public-Private Partnerships and Working Alone**

Geneva, 1 December 2006 – The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA) welcomes the opportunity afforded by the first meeting of the WHO Inter-Governmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property, 4-8 December 2006, to promote effective incentives for R&D into treatments for neglected diseases that primarily affect developing countries.

A new IFPMA analysis confirms that its members continue to increase their R&D efforts targeting neglected diseases. Multinational companies are currently working on 41 projects, both in public-private partnerships and alone, with at least four candidates submitted for approval.<sup>1</sup> In 2005, they were active in 32 such projects, with two candidates in registration.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Harvey Bale, Director General of the IFPMA, said: “Industry’s R&D efforts underpin the ability to meet global health needs, including diseases which particularly affect the poorest populations. Indeed, more than 90% of the therapies on the WHO’s List of Essential Medicines were developed by the research-based industry and we look to the Inter-Governmental Working Group to support incentives to promote neglected disease R&D by industry.”

Dr. Bale noted that the public-private partnership approach is increasingly important for neglected disease R&D and suggested that targeted funding from developed country governments and other donors to guarantee a market for newly developed treatments for specific diseases could provide the additional incentives needed to fill gaps in the current neglected disease R&D pipeline.

Dr. Bale concluded: “Proposals to stimulate this type of research by weakening or even removing intellectual property protection are wide of the mark: increased neglected disease R&D and IP are not just compatible, they are inextricably linked. The research-based industry is an essential partner, as it has the expertise and experience needed to transform promising molecules into safe and effective treatments. The viability of “alternative” models for pharmaceutical development is unproven and such approaches risk discouraging effective research. However, industry welcomes efforts to improve and strengthen the approaches that have already stimulated an increase in neglected disease R&D.”

<sup>1</sup> IFPMA Backgrounder *R&D into Neglected Diseases by the Innovative Pharmaceutical Industry* (30 November 2006).

<sup>2</sup> *The New Landscape of Neglected Disease Drug Development*, Dr. Mary Moran, the Pharmaceutical R&D Policy Project, published by the London School of Economics and Political Science and the Wellcome Trust.

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**About the IFPMA:**

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations is the global non-profit NGO representing the research-based pharmaceutical, biotech and vaccine sectors. Its members comprise 26 leading international companies and 46 national and regional industry associations covering developed and developing countries. The industry's R&D pipeline contains hundreds of new medicines and vaccines being developed to address global disease threats, including cancer, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and malaria. The IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal ([www.ifpma.org/clinicaltrials](http://www.ifpma.org/clinicaltrials)) and IFPMA activities in Health Partnerships ([www.ifpma.org](http://www.ifpma.org)) help make the industry's activities more transparent. The IFPMA strengthens patient safety by improving risk assessment of medicines and combating their counterfeiting. It also provides the secretariat for the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).

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