

Global Health

Over 28 million people are infected with HIV and need treatment, yet only 12.9 million are receiving it. Meanwhile, non-communicable diseases like diabetes and Hepatitis C kill 38 million people a year, with 82% of these “premature” deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries. Neglected tropical diseases like malaria and tuberculosis that predominantly impact the poor have also not been eradicated.

The pharmaceutical industry, however, has focused inordinate resources on the development and marketing of expensive drugs for consumers living in industrialized countries, creating a global gap in access to medicines. ICCR members advocate for access to health care as a basic human right, and for more than 20 years have worked to increase access to medicines and promote a more equitable and sustainable global health system.

In their dialogues, ICCR members encourage pharmaceutical companies to collaborate with public health organizations in creating innovative research and development models to create medicines that address global health burdens — especially neglected tropical diseases — that impact the most vulnerable.

ICCR members also encourage collaboration with the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), established in 2010 as a vehicle to make name-brand AIDS drugs available for generic production. These patent-sharing agreements are speeding the manufacture and delivery of low-cost medicines to countries where the majority of those with HIV live. To date, the MPP and its partners have distributed 2 billion HIV pills in 117 countries – as a result, millions of lives have been improved and extended.



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ICCR members were crucial in leading Bristol-Myers Squibb, Gilead Sciences, Roche, and ViiV Healthcare to enter the Pool. ICCR also recently helped persuade Gilead to expand its license of a critical fixed-dose combination drug to increase access in more countries, including some middle-income countries. AbbVie and Merck also agreed to place drug patents in the Pool in order to accelerate the development of much-needed pediatric drug formulations. In addition, Johnson & Johnson has now agreed to work alongside the Pool to help support the development of new pediatric AIDS treatments.

ICCR members also continue to monitor the work of Eli Lilly’s NCD Partnership, which is bringing a model of shared value, working with local public health professionals for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diabetes in Mexico, Brazil, India and South Africa.

ICCR members believe that the pharmaceutical industry has a pivotal role to play in protecting the human right to health and will continue its work to help close the accessibility and affordability gap in the global health care system.