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**SHAREHOLDERS OF BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB APPLAUD DECISION TO SHARE LICENSE FOR
HEPATITIS C DRUG**

Agreement for royalty-free manufacture of Daclatasvir will significantly increase access and affordability in 112 low- and middle-income countries, covering 2/3 of all patients with hepatitis C.

NEW YORK, NY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015 – Members of [the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility](#) (ICCR) and investors in Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) who have long engaged the company to promote greater access to medicines for vulnerable populations, are gratified by the [announcement](#) from the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) that a license for daclatasvir, a medicine proven to cure multiple genotypes of the HCV virus will be made available for royalty-free manufacture by the company.

The MPP, launched by UNITAID in 2010, aims to lower the prices and facilitate the development and distribution of life-saving medicines through voluntary licensing and patent-pooling. The agreement comes on the heels of the MPP announcement that it is expanding its mandate beyond HIV/AIDS medicines to HCV drugs to combat hepatitis C. This new patent-sharing agreement expands upon the 2013 collaboration between the MPP and BMS on the generics manufacture of the HIV medication atazanavir.

Hepatitis C affects up to 150 million people globally, mostly those living in low- and middle-income countries. This year daclatasvir was added to the World Health Organization's Essential Medicines list underscoring its importance in treating the virus. The agreement will allow generics manufacturers anywhere in the world to sell daclatasvir in the 112 countries specified. According to the MPP's announcement:

...the license allows generic manufacturers to develop fixed-dose combinations with other direct-acting antivirals to create powerful pan-genotypic regimens that offer the potential to treat all of the six major genotypes of HCV. Pan-genotypic regimens are crucial in resource-limited countries where access to genotype testing is limited. Bristol-Myers Squibb will provide a technology transfer package and information needed for the manufacture and registration of the product.

The full agreement can be read [here](#).

Daclatasvir is a once-daily, all oral treatment that inhibits HCV by targeting a key protein, NS5A, involved in the replication of the virus. When used in combination with sofosbuvir, daclatasvir produces high cure rates after 12 weeks of treatment, even among HIV/HCV co-infected patients. According to the MPP's announcement, *recent Phase III studies demonstrated that the daclatasvir regimen could cure up to 100% of HCV patients depending on genotype and stage of liver disease.*

Said Donna Meyer of Mercy Investments, ***“ICCR members work with global pharmaceutical companies to encourage innovations that will drive greater access and affordability for essential medicines. For this reason we have always been strong supporters of the MPP’s model of license-sharing for generics manufacture. As investors, we commend BMS for sharing their IP and technology on daclatasvir with the pool. The significance of this agreement cannot be understated: it has the ability to positively impact millions of people and BMS should be congratulated for their decision today.”***

About the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)

Currently celebrating its 44th year, ICCR is the pioneer coalition of active shareholders who view the management of their investments as a catalyst for change. Its 300 member organizations with over \$100 billion in AUM have an enduring record of corporate engagement that has demonstrated influence on policies promoting justice and sustainability in the world. www.iccr.org