
A solution to accelerate innovation and collaboration to achieve a one-month TB regimen accessible and affordable for all

Tuberculosis (TB) is the world’s deadliest infectious disease, killing 1.8 million people annually. Many strains of TB are resistant to some - or all - existing drugs; these strains kill 200,000 people annually. TB treatment is long, painful and ineffective. Treatment for drug sensitive TB is six months, while drug-resistant TB must be treated for 9-24 months, using old drugs with severe side effects; only 50% of patients are cured. It is predicted that 75 million people will die from TB by 2050, unless better treatments become available.

TB drug development suffers from chronic underinvestment, with less than a third of what is required to develop new drugs being invested annually. Many leading pharmaceutical companies have withdrawn from TB drug research and the future for new drugs looks bleak. The 3P project aims to change this - develop a single affordable and accessible regimen that will cure all forms of TB in one month or less. Currently we do not have enough new TB drugs in development to achieve this.

SUMMARY OF THE 3P PROJECT

The 3P project marries innovative, collaborative research with access - to achieve an affordable, accessible regimen of one month or less suitable for all forms of TB, and all patients, including children and people living with HIV.

A key element of this innovative, collaborative research framework is upfront funding and rewards, building accessibility and affordability into the development of pan-TB treatment from the beginning. The 3P Project will incentivize and reward scientists to bring promising new TB drugs into and through the drug development pipeline, and facilitate the development of treatment combinations. This is a much quicker and more efficient way to develop TB treatment than the current system.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR), TB AND THE 3P PROJECT

The recent UN declaration on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) named TB as a disease of importance when addressing global antimicrobial resistance. The urgent need for new drugs and inadequate funding structures are a daily reality for those working in TB. The Review on AMR commissioned by the UK government in 2016 made special reference to the problem of DR-TB and the potential of the 3P Project as a solution.

The UN High level Panel on Access to Medicine report highlighted the market failure that exists for AMR and TB. A solution emphasized by the panel was Push and Pull incentives with Pooling mechanisms, coupled with an open collaborative framework – the essence of the 3P Project.

HOW THE 3P PROJECT WORKS

The 3P Project implements three mechanisms to facilitate the necessary and appropriate Research and Development (R&D) for TB regimens:

- **Pull** funding to incentivise R&D activities through the promise of financial rewards (milestone prize) on the achievement of Investigational New Drug approval.
- **Pooling** of intellectual property (IP) and data to ensure open collaborative research and fair licensing for competitive production of the final products.
- **Push** funding to finance R&D activities upfront (i.e. through grants).

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1 WHO (2015), *Global Tuberculosis Report 2016*
2 THE Price of a Pandemic: Counting the cost of MDR-TB. APPG UK report, 2016
3 Political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance, Sept 2016
4 Tackling drug-resistant infections globally: final report and recommendations the review on antimicrobial resistance. May 2016
5 The United Nations Secretary-General’s high-level panel on access to medicines report promoting innovation and access to health technologies. Sept 2016
6 If product fulfills a Target Product Profile and shares IP and Data.
Schematic representation of the proposed mechanism

WHO IS THE 3P PROJECT?

The 3P project is a coalition of major TB organizations, bringing together unique skills, experiences and insights to solve one of the greatest medical problems of our time. The 3P project is made up of the following organisations:

- Critical Path Institute (C-Path)
- The International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)
- Medicines Patent Pool (MPP)
- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
- Stop TB Partnership (STBP)
- The Medical Research Council of South Africa
- The Global Alliance for TB Drug Development, Inc
- The World Health Organization (WHO)

These organisations all have specific expertise in different areas. Together, they will ensure the 3P project is successful.

How it works: