

MPP'S WORK IN LONG-ACTING THERAPEUTICS

Long-acting regimens for the treatment or prevention of chronic illnesses, such as weekly oral pills or monthly patches, injectables and implants, are emerging as game-changers in healthcare. These pioneering innovations offer people a simpler yet effective way of administering medicines that frees them from daily pills, helps them stay on treatment and reduces the burden on health systems.

With continued support from Unitaid and collaboration with other key stakeholders in the long-acting space, MPP is leveraging its expertise in public health-oriented licensing to facilitate the development of, and increase access to, long-acting technologies and formulations of importance for LMICs.

2020 started as an exploratory phase in the long-acting space for MPP, and by year-end, it became an integral part of MPP's ongoing work.

HERE ARE SNAPSHOTS

What happened at MPP in the long-acting space in 2020:

ADDRESSING ACCESS BARRIERS EARLY IN DEVELOPMENTAL CYCLE:

MPP partnered with all three of Unitaid-funded long-acting projects – MedinCell, the University of Liverpool and the University of Washington – to step up the fight against malaria, HIV, hepatitis C and TB. MPP will leverage its expertise and model to provide a pathway, right from the start, for LMICs to obtain these innovations promptly.

“INNOVATION AND GLOBAL HEALTH” DISCUSSION:

During the third Long-Acting Injectables and Implantables Conference in La Jolla, California (6-7 February 2020): MPP co-organised the side event with MedinCell to raise awareness about access to health technologies in LMICs and discuss mechanisms to address access barriers in the long-acting development pipeline.

SATELLITE SESSION ON ACCESS TO LONG-ACTING TECHNOLOGIES AT THE AIDS2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE:

MPP co-organised with Unitaid and WHO a satellite session titled “Harnessing access to long-acting technologies in low- and middle-income countries: are we on track to resolving the conundrum?” The panel discussion, which included high-level representatives and renowned speakers from communities, academia and industry, was attended by more than 700 viewers.

MPP JOINED THE LONG-ACTING/EXTENDED-RELEASE ANTIRETROVIRAL RESOURCE PROGRAM (LEAP) TB AND VIRAL HEPATITIS WORKING GROUPS:

Bringing its expertise to shaping the long-acting agenda in these areas, for which availability of extended-release drugs and formulations could profoundly affect treatment.

MPP ENGAGED WITH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES, TREATMENT ADVOCATES, CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS, THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY AND THE INDUSTRY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

to seek their perspectives on the needs and wants related to long-acting technologies and formulations, as well as potential bottlenecks that MPP could help address.

Each of these engagements and activities brought MPP closer – one step at a time – to accelerating access to affordable quality revolutionary long-acting treatments in the countries where they are needed.

MedsPaL – MPP's MEDICINES PATENTS AND LICENCES DATABASE

MedsPaL is a free resource that provides information on the intellectual property status of selected patented essential medicines in LMICs.

MedsPaL was launched in October 2016, focusing on medicines for three diseases: HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis. In December 2017, it was expanded to cover all patented medicines on the WHO EML. After the new WHO EML was released in July 2019, MedsPaL was updated to include patent information on the 18 newly-listed medicines.

123
priority medicines

>10,200
national patents and patent applications

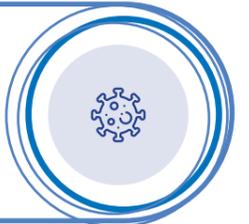
>130
low- and middle-income countries

55
licences

HERE'S WHAT WAS NEW AND NOTABLE IN MedsPaL IN 2020

INCLUSION OF COVID-19 PRODUCTS AT WHO'S REQUEST:

MPP began to add drugs in clinical trials for COVID-19. By the end of the year, it had added 11 candidates, including small molecules and biologics. Other medicines being tested for COVID-19 already included in the database were also flagged as COVID-19 candidates.



ADDITION OF HIV AND TB DRUGS AND FORMULATIONS:

added to the database are newly approved drugs, several paediatric formulations for the treatment of HIV, as well as new candidates in development for TB and HIV.



INCORPORATION OF BIOLOGICS added to the WHO EML in 2019.



NEW MoU SIGNED with Costa Rica's National Register (Registro Nacional Costa Rica), bringing the total number of patent offices with whom MPP has collaboration agreements to 14.



STRUCTURAL UPDATE OF THE DATABASE: "patent families" have been restructured to improve the accuracy of the information being displayed. The user interface was further enhanced with the addition of a new search box allowing filtering of the content by "Disease Areas".



MedsPaL continues to be the main source of information used by procurement agencies to understand medicines' patent status in LMICs.

In 2020, with the inclusion of COVID-19 products, the use of MedsPaL increased

by **54%**