

MESSAGE FROM MPP'S BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2020 has been an unprecedented year on so many fronts – from lockdowns and travel bans across countries, to economic slowdowns, to the loss of millions of lives and livelihoods. Amidst this year of grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) turned 10 years old.



10 years of our operations brought life-saving impact across 148 countries and saw the distribution of more than 18.55 billion doses of generic medicines facilitated by MPP's licences. Nearly 50 million patient-years of treatment reached people in need, with global health savings of over USD 1.96 billion¹ achieved through the procurement of affordable generic products.

Each of these enormous numbers is a testament that our model works. Each pill that reached the hands of someone in need is the result of 10 years of partnerships nurtured and strengthened. Each country supplied with generic medicines through MPP's licences is the bottom line of a long success story. Each dollar saved through these licences means more funding available for other treatments and diseases, and further strengthening of countries' health systems.

10 years of experience also brought precious lessons for us as an organisation: such as transforming what many believed was an "impossible idea" and turning it into a trusted mechanism that the global health community can count on; how catalysing the power of partnerships can create a win-win model for all stakeholders; how keeping people at the heart of our activities can push us to harness our creativity to ensure increased innovation, equity, affordability, availability, quality, speed and transparency. Each of these lessons has brought us where we are today and has empowered us for the path ahead.

2020 alone proved to be an eventful year for MPP across disease areas.

- In HIV, MPP and ViiV Healthcare signed a new licensing agreement to expand access to dolutegravir (DTG)-based regimens for people living with HIV in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Malaysia, all upper-middle-income countries, while Algeria was added to our existing DTG licence.

- In hepatitis C, MPP and Viartis (through its subsidiary Mylan) signed an agreement to scale up access to the first generic version of the World Health Organization (WHO)-recommended treatment glecaprevir/pibrentasvir; and we called for other manufacturers to apply for a licence to ensure healthy market competition and increase access.

¹ KPMG Report: Jan 2012 – Dec 2020 <https://medicinespatentpool.org/progress-achievements/impact/>

- In tuberculosis, MPP sublicensed sutezolid, an investigational drug for TB treatment, to the Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute, thus paving the way for its clinical development.

- Cutting across these core diseases, MPP partnered with Unitaids grantees, the University of Liverpool, the University of Washington and MedinCell, to increase access to long-acting therapeutics in HIV, TB, HCV and malaria as they become available.

As we push forward in the essential medicines area, MPP bolstered partnerships by formalising Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the International Diabetes Foundation and the World Heart Federation.

- In the disease that provided the headlines for most of the year, MPP swiftly expanded its mandate in March to cover products for COVID-19. In a pioneering move, the organisation led an open pledge bringing together 21 generic drug makers from around the globe to combine their manufacturing potential towards developing and delivering COVID-19 treatments. Directly as a result of its 10 years of experience and its recognised expertise, MPP was asked to be a part of various global multi-stakeholder initiatives to tackle COVID-19, such as the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).



While new patented medicines for COVID-19 that are both effective and suitable for deployment in low- and middle-income countries are still to appear, and MPP is still, therefore, waiting to sign a licence, MPP and its model have received a large amount of media coverage holding us up as a key mechanism in the battle against this pandemic. This belief in our model has been evidenced by the signing of a new five-year USD 34.3 million grant from Unitaids with its diverse board of countries, foundations, WHO and civil society, as well as by the continued support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.



In this Annual Report 2020, themed "10 years of MPP", we invite you to delve into our journey over the last 10 years including lessons from the decade and news from 2020. Today, we thank each one of you for partnering with us in every step we took. This report is dedicated to all our partners because you share with us our core understanding that health innovations are only as powerful as they are accessible.

Dr Marie-Paule Kieny
Chair of MPP's Board

Charles Gore
Executive Director of MPP