

G FINDER SURVEY – 2011 – Comments on the report

Aeras

“The goal of developing new, more effective global health technologies will rely on sustained commitment and support from across all sectors. We are encouraged by the G-FINDER findings that the private sector has increased investment in neglected disease R&D, but the overall decrease in investment in R&D for neglected diseases, especially by the public sector, is cause for alarm. The combined support of the public, private and philanthropic sectors over the past decade has led to tremendous progress in the development of new health technologies that could save millions of lives and alleviate suffering across the globe – in the case of TB vaccines alone a dozen candidates are now in clinical trials. We recognize the economic challenges that nations are facing, but reducing support for critical R&D now will undermine prior investments and will leave a legacy of both human and economic losses for generations to come.”

Jim Connolly, President and CEO, Aeras

DNDi – Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative

“The G-Finder 2011 report highlights the challenges that all actors in neglected disease R&D are facing. We are concerned about the overall decrease in funding that will negatively and directly impact the prompt availability of new products to combat neglected diseases. While much progress has been made over the last decade – notably demonstrated by the replenished global R&D pipeline for neglected diseases – much remains to be done. It is only with long-term commitment of current public and private donors as well as engagement of new donors, including emerging economies, that implementation of existing tools and development of new health tools will meaningfully support control programmes and elimination strategies for neglected diseases. Without the long-term commitment of these donors and without new sustainable innovative financing mechanisms, we will not respond to the urgent needs of neglected patients.”

Dr Bernard Pécoul, Executive Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi)

FIND – Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics

“Particularly in times of financial crisis, funders will need to focus on supporting successful approaches to product development. We have shown that the PDP model works – in diagnostics alone, 5 new tools have been developed in 7 years. FIND will continue to collaborate closely with other PDPs in pursuit of our common goals, particularly since new and effective diagnostics can support other research efforts while also reducing waste in already stretched health systems.”

Philippe Jacon, CEO of FIND

GHTC - Global Health Technologies Coalition

“Public support for neglected disease research and product development is critical if we are to create the next generation of global health tools. This year’s G-FINDER report shows that while the United States government remains the top funder for neglected disease research, its overall investment dropped last year. This trend cannot continue. History has proven that the United States and other donors can make a real difference in public health by supporting research for new health products. The world is on the cusp of a wealth of scientific breakthroughs, and donors should double-down on their commitments to bring these breakthroughs to the finish line.”

Kaitlin Christenson, Coalition Director for the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC), a group of 40 nonprofit organizations working to advance research and development for new global health products.

GSK - GlaxoSmithKline

"GlaxoSmithKline is grateful to Policy Cures and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for providing this important and comprehensive survey of the landscape of research into neglected diseases. We are pleased to see that the R&D based industry is intensifying its investment in R&D for these neglected diseases and that its contribution grew by 35%, and GSK continues to play a leading role in these efforts. However, the overall decline in investments in R&D from all sources is very concerning at a time when new collaborative initiatives, such as the WIPO Re:Search consortium, promise renewed momentum. These initiatives will not reach their full potential without adequate financing from all relevant stakeholders."

Jon Pender, VP, IP & Access, Global Health, Government Affairs, Public Policy and Patient Advocacy

Barcelona Institute for Global Health

"Over the years G-finder has made itself the most relevant tool to acknowledge improvement on innovation. From the perspective of an Institute devoted to Global Health, G-Finder has become a daily tool of reference. Today, however, when economic resources from rich countries are scarce, it becomes not only a reference on innovation, but also a very useful guide for donors and governments to see that the good science to bridge the gap is working, and change is possible"

Rafael Vilasanjuan, Director, Think Tank, Barcelona Institute for Global Health, IS Global

MMV - Medicines for Malaria Venture

"The G-Finder report sheds light on the effect of reduced public finances on research and development for neglected diseases. Much progress has been made over the past decade in this critical area. Given the urgent need for research efforts to develop and deliver new health interventions for neglected diseases, we underscore how important it is for public funders to sustain their support so that the gains made by product development partnerships are not lost. Now is not the time to reduce funding and we sincerely hope that governments will continue to prioritize their aid strategies and strongly fund research for neglected diseases."

David Reddy, CEO MMV

Sanofi

"In the field of neglected diseases, partnership is the key word for success. Given its unique set of skills, the pharmaceutical industry is a necessary partner for R&D in new drugs and vaccines. We are determined to play our part in this endeavour, and we applaud this new edition of the G-Finder report which, once more, shows how mobilizing a wide variety of skills and resources is the only way forward"

Dr Robert Sebbag, Vice President Access to Medicines, Sanofi

TB Alliance – Global Alliance for TB Development

"The GFINDER report shows a large retraction of public funding, especially for product development partnerships (PDPs), which will have devastating consequences for global health. As diseases such as tuberculosis continue to kill millions of people, products developed with a decade of public investment will stall in late stage development. We have made huge progress over the last 10 years and are now on the verge of delivering treatments that can potentially transform global health. Donors should view these findings as a wake-up call and work to put product development for diseases of poverty back on track. Now is a time of tremendous opportunity, with dozens of potential products within the reach of patients--donors must commit to taking them across the finish line."

Dr. Mel Spigelman, President and CEO, TB Alliance