

Our Response to the Stop AIDS Campaign (UK)
4th April 2011

Thank you for your inquiry and for sharing with us your perspective on this important matter. On behalf of Johnson & Johnson, I can tell you that we agree that voluntary licensing is an important and proven mechanism by which to expand access to HIV medicines in sub-Saharan Africa and the world's least developed countries. To that end, Johnson & Johnson supports the Medicines Patent Pool Foundation and their initiative to expand voluntary licensing.

Through our affiliate Tibotec, we have proactively entered into multiple agreements with different generic manufacturers in order to ensure the widespread access to, and supply of, our antiretrovirals in areas where there is a high rate of HIV infection and where there is the greatest economic vulnerability, focusing on sub-Saharan Africa and the world's least developed countries, as defined by the UN. The top 5 countries with the highest HIV prevalence rate in adults are all countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Our first voluntary licensing agreement was signed in 2007 with Aspen Pharmacare of South Africa in order to provide access to the drug *darunavir* in sub-Saharan Africa.

At this time we believe our direct voluntary licensing agreements with generic manufacturers are providing the best route to successfully managing the multiple components of HIV drug access, these include timely registration, supply chain development, lower prices, medical education and safety pharmacovigilance.

We have had several discussions with the Medicines Patent Pool Foundation regarding the development of a patent pool for HIV drugs but currently are not starting negotiations for our antiretroviral compounds at this time. Nevertheless we continue to have an ongoing dialogue with them.

I hope this provides some additional perspective around what we are doing to expand access to HIV medicines in sub-Saharan African and the world's least developed countries. We will communicate any new developments in this area as and when they occur.