PRESS RELEASE

Medicines for Malaria Venture appoints new CEO

- New CEO, Martin Fitchet MD, brings over 25 years of experience across Pharmaceuticals, MedTech and Public Health
- Martin was most recently at Johnson & Johnson, where he was the Global Head of Global Public Health and also held multiple leadership roles in R&D
- His proven track record at Johnson & Johnson aligns perfectly with MMV's mission and future strategy

Geneva, 17 April 2024 – Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), a leading not-for-profit partnership dedicated to combating malaria, has today announced the appointment of Martin Fitchet MD as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Martin brings over 25 years of experience across Pharmaceuticals, MedTech and Global Public Health and joins from Johnson & Johnson where he was most recently the Global Head of Global Public Health. Prior to that, Martin held multiple significant leadership roles at Johnson & Johnson, spearheading the development of and global access to novel pharmaceuticals for cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, HIV, tuberculosis, Ebola and Covid-19.

The new CEO joins as MMV celebrates its 25th anniversary and succeeds David Reddy, who was at the helm of the organisation for 13 years. During this period, MMV brought forward 15 new medicines estimated to have saved the lives of 15.4 million people. Yet malaria remains an urgent and pressing global health issue that takes more than 600,000 lives a year. We must overcome the challenges posed by drug resistance, climate change and fragile health systems that limit access to medicines by the most vulnerable, notably children and pregnant women.

In his new role, Martin will oversee the development and delivery of new antimalarial medicines to help achieve a malaria-free future. This vision of the future is the linchpin of MMV’s new 2024-2030 strategy that will be launched at the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria Society Conference taking place in Rwanda from 21-27 April. The strategy lays out four pillars and cross-cutting priorities that will determine the organisation’s activity in the years ahead.

Martin Fitchet MD, CEO of MMV, said:

"I am honoured and excited to join MMV, at such a pivotal time. In particular, I am inspired by the organisation’s relentless focus on harnessing innovation to save the lives of vulnerable and under-served populations at risk of malaria. I am committed to continuing this vital work and eager to begin working with the dedicated MMV team and partners, to accelerate efforts to help those most affected and to ultimately eradicate this disease."

Alan Court, MMV Board Chair, said:

"MMV’s Board is delighted that Martin has accepted the role of leading MMV. He succeeds David Reddy, to whom I offer my heartfelt thanks for his excellent leadership over the last 13 years. Martin’s expertise and proven track record of fostering innovation and access to medicines align perfectly with MMV’s strategic initiatives. I am confident that Martin, as a doctor and global health leader, will lead the organisation to deliver cutting-edge innovation to the populations that need it most."

View Dr Martin Fitchet’s LinkedIn profile.
About Medicines for Malaria Venture

MMV is a leading product development partnership (PDP) in the field of antimalarial drug research and development. Its mission is to reduce the burden of malaria in disease-endemic countries by discovering, developing and facilitating delivery of new, effective and affordable antimalarial drugs.

MMV receives funding and support from government agencies, private foundations, international organisations, corporations, corporate foundations and private individuals. These funds are used to finance MMV’s portfolio of R&D projects, as well as specific, targeted access & product management (APM) interventions that aim to facilitate increased access to malaria medicines by vulnerable populations in disease-endemic countries and support their appropriate use.

Since its foundation in 1999, MMV and partners have built the largest portfolio of antimalarial R&D and access projects ever assembled, have brought forward 15 medicines that are treating patients. An estimated 15.4 million deaths have been averted by these MMV co-developed medicines. MMV’s success is based on its extensive partnership network of over 500 active partners including from the pharmaceutical industry, academia and endemic countries.

MMV’s vision is a world in which innovative medicines will cure and protect the vulnerable and under-served populations at risk of malaria and help to ultimately eradicate this terrible disease.

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We ask you not rely unduly on these statements. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and its partner(s) regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties.

MMV accepts no liability for the information presented here, nor for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of this information. Furthermore, MMV accepts no liability for the decisions made by its pharmaceutical partner(s), the impact of any of their decisions, their earnings and their financial status.