Information required for submission of 3 page letter of interest to Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) for Malaria Drug Discovery Projects

Deadline for receipt in MMV office: March 14th, 2011

Please read the instructions carefully. Submissions should not exceed 3 pages. MMV will only receive submissions electronically. Please see the contact details at the end of this page.

There are two stages to the process of seeking funding of a drug discovery project through the Medicines for Malaria Venture.

The first stage is a concise 3 page letter of interest outlining the project using the guidelines provided. These letters will be competitively assessed by MMV’s Expert Scientific Advisory Committee (ESAC). A short-list of projects will then be invited to submit a more detailed proposal, which will be presented and discussed at the MMV offices in Geneva, in a face-to-face meeting (later in 2011) with the ESAC Committee. Experience has shown that MMV funding is highly competitive and it is in your interest to present all relevant data as completely and concisely as possible. Some guidelines on this are provided below.

Please note: If you have several proposals or potential projects that you wish to submit for funding, then each proposal should be submitted as a separate project application. Also remember to state in your application that you are submitting a drug discovery application.

Please remember when preparing the application that the MMV ESAC Committee is already familiar with the key issues of malaria, malaria chemotherapy and the need for antimalarial drugs. So please focus on key information and data. Your proposal should restrict itself to details placed in the context of drug discovery.

Three areas are highlighted:
(a) The development of non 8 aminoquinolines to produce a radical cure by targeting the hypnozoite stages of Plasmodium vivax,
(b) New chemotypes that block transmission of plasmodium, and
(c) New chemotypes with rapid acting, blood stage (ideally including ring stage) activity against resistant strains that have the potential to replace existing endoperoxides

The following information will assist you in preparing a focused 3 page application.

The 1st page of your application should outline:
• Type of application: Discovery
• Project title
• Contact details of Project Leader, and partners with areas of responsibility of within project and a succinct description of their professional expertise.
• Project Phase
• Clear statement of goals of project with particular emphasis on expected results and achievements in the first two years
• Comparative advantages of approach (and compounds) over existing drugs and other approaches

The 2nd page of your application should include:
• Scientific basis for the project and justification vs. the call for proposals criteria e.g.
⇒ Biology rationale
⇒ Chemistry rationale

• Project status:
  Stage of project (e.g. activities of compounds in culture and animal models, any pre-clinical toxicology studies, pharmacokinetics)
  ⇒ Identify where the project is in relation to its goals and include any key results
  ⇒ Clearly state activities of any lead compounds
    (a) in vitro against enzyme / molecular target e.g. IC50 / Ki
    (b) in culture against parasites e.g. IC50;
    (c) in animal models e.g. ED50, indicating route of application, and exposure data especially indicating if compounds are orally active.
  ⇒ Chemical structures of lead compounds should be provided along with medicinal chemistry comments; as with all other information these will be treated in strictest confidence.

The 3rd page of your application should include:
• Address critical issues and explain exploratory approach
  ⇒ Identify gaps in knowledge or bottleneck that need to be addressed to validate biological approach and/or lead compounds.
  ⇒ Identify milestones for moving to next phase of discovery process and/or improvements in compounds’ efficacy and properties that need to be achieved.
  ⇒ Outline project approach and methodologies to be used.
• Likely resource requirements and how these would be allocated to: (i) project partners and institution; (ii) personnel, equipment and operating costs.
  ⇒ Include budget for years 1 and 2.
  ⇒ Costs may be approximate at this stage.
• Patent position, if appropriate.
• Maximum 3 references if any.

If accepted, the project will be integrated into the MMV portfolio as soon as legal agreement on the collaboration contract is reached. As part of the MMV portfolio, we will strive to aid movement of the project toward drug development and registration for fast access to the markets in developing countries.

SUBMISSION CONTACT DETAILS:

Deadline for receipt in MMV office: March 14th, 2011
Send your 3 page letter of interest, either electronically to: proposals@mmv.org