Media Release

**Synthetic Peroxide Compounds Herald New Class Anti-Malarial Drugs**

Geneva: 4 June. The Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) today announced promising research results from groundbreaking work on synthetic peroxides.

Speaking at the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries conference on Global Healthcare and Development, Dr Christopher Hentschel, MMV CEO announced that a team of scientists and researchers from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, USA; Monash University, Australia; the Swiss Tropical Institute and F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Switzerland had been selected as the MMV partnership achieving the most promising research results in 2001 for their groundbreaking work on synthetic peroxides.

Dr Simon Campbell FRS former Head of Worldwide Discovery at Pfizer who chairs the MMV Expert Scientific Advisory Committee said: "This group has succeeded in taking the well established anti-malarial ‘warhead’ found in an ancient Chinese herbal remedy and have developed it into a chemical series that is now very drug like and amenable to modern drug optimisation techniques and to industrial scale-up. In animal studies these compounds essentially cure malaria with one dose. Compounds that have not yet progressed to clinical development are by definition high risk and it will still take many years before the work delivers a registered drug, but the extraordinary progresses made by this group and the compelling animal data potentially herald a new class of anti-malarial drugs”.

Dame Bridget Ogilvie, former director of the Wellcome Trust and an AstraZeneca Board member who chairs the MMV Foundation, said: “This project is an excellent demonstration that public-private partnerships like MMV can work to fill the glaring innovation gap that has built up over decades in major global diseases of the poor like malaria. The growing portfolio under MMV’s professional management makes me confident that we are witnessing a genuine transformation in the research environment for anti-malarial drug discovery”.

Established as a Foundation in Switzerland, MMV was officially launched on November 3, 1999 as a public-private partnership for the discovery and development of new anti-malarial drugs. MMV’s vision is a world in which affordable drugs will help eliminate the devastating effects of malaria and help protect the children, pregnant women, and vulnerable workers of developing countries from this terrible disease. It is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, ExxonMobil Corporation, the Global Forum for Health Research, the International Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, the Netherlands Ministry for Development Cooperation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, Roll Back Malaria, and the UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR).

For more information, visit MMV’s Website at [www.mmv.org](http://www.mmv.org)

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