

## Zydus and Medicines for Malaria Venture Sign Agreement to Develop Potential New Antimalarial Drug

September 27, 2016 – Zydus Cadila, a research-driven, global healthcare provider, and Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) announced a collaboration to develop the investigational antimalarial compound MMV674253.

Zydus will lead development of the novel compound and MMV will provide support, including scientific expertise and access to tools in the field of malaria drug development and delivery.

The aim of the collaboration is to provide an effective alternative to the current front-line antimalarial drugs for the treatment of uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria, artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs), which are under threat of resistance.

Malaria continues to place a heavy burden on the world. The WHO estimated that in 2015, 214 million malaria cases and 438,000 malaria deaths occurred worldwide. The scale-up of control measures including medicines has saved the lives of more than six million people since 2000.

Yet the rapid development and spread of antimalarial drug resistance threatens this global progress. To date, parasite resistance to artemisinin has been detected in five countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region: Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

The WHO recognizes the imminent danger posed by artemisinin resistance and states that “The geographic scope of the artemisinin-resistance problem could widen quickly and have dire public health consequences: the spread or independent emergence of artemisinin resistance in other parts of the world could pose a major health security risk as no alternative antimalarial medicine is available at present with the same level of efficacy and tolerability as ACTs.”

“Malaria is a major global health risk and its menace has only worsened with the problem of artemisinin-resistance. By collaborating with Medicines for Malaria Venture in this initiative, we hope to usher in an advancement in treating the scourge of malaria,” said Pankaj R. Patel, Chairman and Managing Director, Zydus. “This molecule has a novel mechanism of action, rapidly kills parasites across all intra-erythrocytic stages and has a long half-life, which means it might even lead to a single-dose cure for *P. falciparum* malaria.”

“MMV is delighted that the Zydus team has taken up the challenge of developing MMV674253,” said Dr Timothy Wells, Chief Scientific Officer at MMV. “We discovered this promising candidate in collaboration with AstraZeneca, India, and look forward to co-developing the compound with Zydus. Given the imminent threat of resistance, this novel compound, which kills parasites rapidly with a novel mechanism of action, could be one of the critical alternatives to current therapies the world urgently needs if we are to ultimately defeat malaria.”

### About Medicines for Malaria Venture

MMV is recognized as the 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. Since its foundation in 1999, MMV has developed and brought forward six new medicines with its partners, and has taken over the stewardship of two other approved artemisinin combination therapies (ACTs). Managing the largest portfolio of antimalarial R&D projects ever assembled, of over 65 projects, MMV has nine new drugs in clinical development addressing unmet medical needs in malaria, including medicines for children, pregnant women and relapsing malaria, and drugs that could support the elimination/eradication agenda. MMV's success in research and access & product management comes from its extensive partnership network of over 400 pharmaceutical, academic and endemic-country partners in more than 55 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 ultimately help to eradicate this terrible disease.

[www.mmv.org](http://www.mmv.org)

### **About Zydus**

Zydus Cadila is an innovative, global pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, manufactures and markets a broad range of healthcare therapies, including small molecule drugs, biologic therapeutics and vaccines. The group employs over 19,000 people worldwide, including 1200 scientists engaged in R & D, and is dedicated to creating healthier communities globally. For more information, please visit [www.zyduscadila.com](http://www.zyduscadila.com)

### **Additional Links:**

- Malaria is the third-largest killer for children globally  
<https://www.unicefusa.org/mission/survival/malaria>
- State of artemisinin resistance around the world  
[http://www.who.int/malaria/media/artemisinin\\_resistance\\_qa/en/](http://www.who.int/malaria/media/artemisinin_resistance_qa/en/)