In MMV’s short 10 year history there have been numerous challenges that have shaped our development. These challenges – overcome in the true MMV spirit of tenacity and determination – are reflected by our achievements detailed in this book. In this brief period, MMV has blossomed into a successful and multi-skilled organization that has proved to be the leading PDP at the forefront of the fight to defeat malaria.

Lynda, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Chairman of the Board

This year, we are proud to celebrate our 10th anniversary, and also the culmination of several years work with the launch of our first medicine - Coartem® Dispersible - especially formulated for children. As we move forward, our sights are now firmly set on the ultimate goal of malaria eradication. Alongside our partners we will continue to discover and develop the next generation of affordable and effective medicines, and ensure their availability to vulnerable people the world over. The next decade will surely be as amazing as the last!

Chris Hentschel, President and CEO
MMV adopts the mission to Discover and Develop new effective and affordable antimalarials.

Gro Harlem Brundtland officially launches MMV on 3 November under the umbrella of the WHO Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR).

MMV sets out with initial seed finance of USD 4 million from the Governments of Switzerland, the UK (Department for International Development) and the Netherlands; The World Bank; and Rockefeller Foundation.

1999

1st call for proposals focuses on drug discovery to target Plasmodium falciparum.

Results
100 proposals: 6 approved

Portfolio status
6 projects: 3 exploratory, 3 discovery
0 projects terminated
MMV establishes its first alliance with industry (Glaxo Wellcome) and academia (University of Bristol and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) to work on the enzyme lactate dehydrogenase. This new alliance is a huge turning point for MMV – opening up a new world of possibilities through access to the pharmaceutical industry’s chemical and natural product libraries. Moreover, it lays the foundation for fruitful relationships with Pharma in the future.

MMV recruits its first team of two, including Dr Chris Hentschel, Chief Executive Officer. Initially housed in the TDR offices, MMV rapidly becomes an independent foundation under Swiss law, and takes up permanent residence in the International Center Cointrin, Geneva.

Dame Bridget Ogilvie chairs MMV’s first Board meeting and Dr Simon Campbell chairs the first Expert Scientific Advisory Committee meeting, both held in Geneva.

MMV adopts its first business plan, on the strength of which the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awards its first major donation of USD 25 million over 5 years.

ExxonMobil Foundation makes its first pledge.

2000

Call for proposals
None

Results
N/A

Portfolio status
6 projects: 3 exploratory, 3 discovery
1 project terminated
MMV discusses the idea of a novel concept – the mini-portfolio – with legal counsel (Stephen Whybrow, of Cameron McKenna). The mini-portfolio will allow the efficient distribution of resources within a group of discovery projects held by MMV and an industrial partner.

By the end of 2001 the rapidly expanding team comprises the CEO, Human Resources and Administration Manager, Chief Scientific Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Personal Assistant to the Management Team and a Delhi-based Director of International Operations.

MMV holds its first Stakeholders’ meeting at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

2001

2nd call for proposals focuses on development and discovery.

Results
84 proposals: 7 approved

Portfolio status
6 projects: 3 exploratory, 3 discovery
0 projects terminated

MMV Project of the Year 2001 goes to synthetic peroxides.

Partners: University of Nebraska/Monash University/Swiss Tropical Institute/Roche

These compounds hold the potential to provide a synthetic alternative to the artemisinin derivatives, and therefore a medicine free from the vagaries of agricultural production.
The Wellcome Trust donates £1.8 million over 5 years. MMV is honoured to be the first PDP to receive a Wellcome Trust grant.

TDR, MMV and Shin Poong Pharmaceutical, Co. Ltd. sign an agreement to develop pyronaridine-artesunate (Pyramax®), just as the potential combination therapy embarks on preclinical development.

2002

3rd call for proposals focuses on discovery, development and natural products.

Results
106 proposals: 7 approved

Portfolio status
13 projects: 3 exploratory, 4 discovery, 5 preclinical, 1 clinical development
1 project terminated

MMV Project of the Year 2002 goes to protein farnesyltransferase inhibitors.
Partner: University of Washington
The project has progressed rapidly from lead identification to optimization.
The Gates Foundation pledges its continued support with USD 40 million over 5 years. This allows MMV to release the brakes previously applied to some projects and significantly accelerate others.

MMV and Novartis sign an agreement to make a paediatric formulation of Coartem® (artemether-lumefantrine) – Coartem® Dispersible.

New 3D logo highlights the three components of MMV’s mission: Discover, Develop, Deliver.

MMV updates its business plan to incorporate the need to ensure access to products emerging from the project pipeline.

MMV and GSK sign the first mini-portfolio agreement, comprising four promising discovery projects.

2003

Call for proposals
None

Results
N/A

Portfolio status
16 projects: 1 exploratory, 6 discovery, 4 preclinical, 5 development
3 projects terminated

MMV Project of the Year 2003 goes to 4 (1H)-pyridones.
Partner: GlaxoSmithKline
The project has moved rapidly – within 1 year – from discovery to development.
President Joacquim Chissano of Mozambique delivers a poignant keynote speech at the Stakeholders’ meeting in Maputo, stating: “One day our children will be born free from malaria. With our determination and perseverance, that future is attainable.”

USAID and BHP Billiton pledge their support to MMV.

MMV joins hands with Sigma-Tau Industrie Farmaceutiche Reunite, Oxford University and Holley Pharmaceutical Co. Inc. to develop a high-quality medicine to treat uncomplicated malaria – dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (Eurartesim ™).

First children’s drawing contest takes place at the first ever Stakeholders’ meeting to be held in an African capital – Maputo, Mozambique.

2004

4th call for proposals focuses on populating the portfolio with promising projects.

Results
81 proposals: 5 approved

Portfolio status
21 projects: 3 exploratory, 8 discovery, 4 preclinical, 6 development
2 projects terminated

MMV Project of the Year 2004 goes to the falcipain project focusing on cysteine proteases.
Partner: University of California San Francisco
The project team has made impressive progress.

A Burkina Faso clinical trial site is the first to enroll a patient for a clinical development project and first to receive MMV support for capacity building.

An independent review of MMV by major donors and Stakeholders states, “MMV has made tremendous progress, clearly ahead of its predicted milestones, towards achieving its goals. It has successfully mobilized academic institutions and pharmaceutical companies in highly productive partnerships.”

2005 is MMV’s 5th anniversary. Serendipitously, in Roman numerals the year 2005 is written as MMV. Significant new funding comes in from the Wellcome Trust (£10 million over 5 years), UK DIFID (£10 million over 5 years), and BMGF (USD 100 million over 5 years).

The R&D agenda continues to evolve, addressing other aspects of malaria control, for example, prophylaxis, Plasmodium vivax, severe malaria and transmission blocking drugs.

The pipeline shows signs of blossoming, with three projects in the final phase of clinical development.

Call for proposals: None
Results: N/A
Portfolio status: 21 projects: 12 discovery, 2 preclinical, 7 clinical
3 projects terminated

MMV Project of Year 2005 goes to pyronaridine artesunate (Pyramax®).
Partner: Shing Poong Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd

The project progressed rapidly from Phase I into Phase II of the clinical development trials.
discovering novel chemistry of compounds. This strategy targets Asia as the primary source of natural product extracts with "hit" status. The project is currently taking a huge screening effort from both academic and MMV's lead identification industrial partners, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, Novartis has the capacity to screen both their compound libraries and drug discovery expertise. Combining compound libraries from "hit" to "lead" status, compounds must not only be upgraded for their potential antimalarial activity and antimalarial activity are confirmed through chemical manipulations and repeated in vivo studies, whilst maintaining metabolized and excreted by its ability to be appropriately absorbed, distributed, and metabolized. Compounds that demonstrate antimalarial activity via a range of screening methods, such as clinical tests, which assess the antimalarial activity and clinical tests, which assess the antimalarial activity and feasibility of manufacturing. The aim is to start clinical trials in man. A small group of healthy volunteers receive an initial dose of the drug, monitored in order to detect adverse events occur, the time at which efficacy can be measured. Provided no unexpected adverse events occur, the drug is ready to be tested for efficacy in addition to safety in malaria patients. The aim is to fully synthesize peroxides, which hold the potential to provide protection against new infections. Although, this chemical class holds the potential to provide protection against new infections, it has now been proven to be highly effective against a fast-acting and effective a-day therapy and is the best ACT currently in development with the best currently available treatment. The antimalarial, selected candidates should be. Only then can the drug be tested in a larger scale, and the blood stages of malaria. The new medicine, Artemisinin, a potent artemisinin derivative, is an exciting prospect as future antimalarial, selected candidates should be. Only then can the drug be tested in a larger scale, and the blood stages of malaria. The new medicine, Artemisinin, a potent artemisinin derivative, is an exciting prospect as future antimalarial, selected candidates. The lead DHFR enzyme compromises the enzyme, thereby leading to its eventual demise. The lead DHFR targeting compound from the MMV portfolio of a project in Phase II trials. One of our preclinical projects, Artemisinin, a potent artemisinin derivative, identified by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, is one example from the MMV portfolio of a project in Phase II trials. 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Although, this chemical class holds the potential to provide protection against new infections, it has now been proven to be highly effective against a fast-acting and effective a-day therapy and is the best ACT currently in development with the best currently available treatment.
The newly created Access and Delivery department transforms MMV into a 3D organization – Discover, Develop, Deliver. The Access and Delivery Advisory Committee (ADAC) is established.

Lynda, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey succeeds Dame Bridget Ogilvie as Board Chairperson.

Former Irish President Mary Robinson announces a donation of €9 million over 3 years from the Irish government at the Stakeholders’ meeting in Zambia.

Dutch Government funds enable the refurbishment of an old research facility in Gabon into a state-of-the-art clinical trial unit (Albert Schweitzer Clinic) to conduct safety and efficacy studies for antimalarial drugs, particularly in paediatric patients.

MMV establishes two new mini-portfolios, one with Novartis Institute for Tropical Disease, and the other with Broad Institute of MIT/Harvard & Genzyme Corporation.

Dutch Government funds enable the refurbishment of an old research facility in Gabon into a state-of-the-art clinical trial unit (Albert Schweitzer Clinic) to conduct safety and efficacy studies for antimalarial drugs, particularly in paediatric patients.

MMV Project of the Year 2006 goes to next generation OZ (synthetic peroxide).

Partners: University of Nebraska; Monash University; Swiss Tropical Institute and Roche

The synthetic peroxides hold the promise of generating a fast-acting antimalarial of the future.
Regulatory dossier for Coartem® Dispersible is submitted to Swissmedic.

MMV completes two major Phase III studies - Eurartesim™ and Pyramax®.

The Pivotal Phase III study of dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (Eurartesim™), with the contracted service of MDS Pharma Services, wins the Good Clinical Practice Journal (GCPJ) Award, honouring excellence in clinical research.

Access Symposium in Uganda sparks keen interest in the critical need for improved access to effective antimalarial treatment in Africa.

The Gates Foundation donates an additional USD 37 million over 2 years and the NIH awards its first donation of USD 5.6 million over 5 years.

The World Bank Independent Global Program Review considers MMV ‘a successful product development public–private partnership.’

President Museveni of Uganda inaugurates the Stakeholders’ meeting in Kampala, Uganda.

MMV takes to the road in Africa (Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Togo and Benin) for 5 weeks, drawing attention to the new products soon to emerge from the portfolio.

Call for proposals
None

Results
N/A

Portfolio status
39 projects: 29 discovery, 3 preclinical, 7 clinical development
5 projects terminated
MMV Project of the Year 2007 goes to Queensland natural products.
Partner: The Nature Bank at Eskitis Institute, Griffith University
This project combines the chemical diversity of natural products with the technological power of high-throughput screening in the search for the next generation of antimalarials.
Prime Minister of Uganda, Rt. Honorable Apolo Nsibambi launches the MMV–MOH pilot to study the effects of providing a heavily subsidised ACT through private channels in four rural districts of Uganda. This work aims to inform the Affordable Medicines Facility – malaria (AMFm).

Coartem® Dispersible is approved by Swissmedic – a stringent regulatory authority.

Our fourth artemisinin combination therapy (ACT), Dacart™ (GSK) completes its Phase III studies, but is discontinued due to side effects of haemolysis in patients with G6PD-deficiency. Nonetheless, the studies were useful in terms of the lessons they provided.

2008

6th Call for proposals focuses on products for uncomplicated malaria and prophylaxis.

Results
166 proposals: 9 approved

Portfolio status
50 projects: 37 discovery, 6 preclinical, 6 development (2 in late-stage clinical development, 1 registered)
4 projects terminated

MMV Project of the Year 2008 and first-ever MMV Drug Innovation Award goes to Coartem® Dispersible.

Partner: Novartis
Coartem Dispersible is the first MMV-supported medicine to be approved by a stringent regulatory authority.

MMV launches revised 5-year business plan with a new vision to target eradication.

Spanish government becomes MMV’s 6th public sector donor with a grant of €3 million for 2008.
MMV receives its fifth and largest grant from the Gates Foundation of USD 115 million in addition to new funding from DFID of USD 30 million – both to support MMV over 5 years. This renewed support demonstrates both the Gates Foundation and DFID’s continued belief in MMV’s ability to succeed.

Coartem® Dispersible is launched in three African countries as well as Switzerland. The regulatory dossier for Eurartesim™ is submitted to EMEA, the European stringent regulatory authority. The dossier for Pyramax® is being prepared for submission in 2010.

Senegal’s Minister of Health, Mme Therese Coumba Diop, offers her country’s continued support to MMV’s mission at the Stakeholders’ meeting in Dakar.

MMV continues to work towards eradication by supporting the first cellular assay to screen compounds for activity against the hypnozoite of P. vivax.

In MMV’s 10th year, the dedicated, multi-skilled team of two has blossomed to 40.
Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to reducing the burden of malaria in disease-endemic countries by discovering, developing and delivering new affordable antimalarial drugs through effective public–private partnerships. Our vision is a world in which these innovative medicines will cure and protect the vulnerable populations at risk from malaria, and help to ultimately eradicate this terrible disease.
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Lithograph and Printer  Imprimerie Genoud SA, Switzerland  
Images  BIOTEC, Thailand; MMV, Switzerland; Monash University, Australia; Anna Wang, Switzerland  

Special thanks go to Pascale Henriod, our graphic designer, and Imprimerie Genoud SA, our printer, for their invaluable contribution to the production of this anniversary book.

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(and their affiliations in 1999)

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Ms Amy Batson (World Bank)
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MMV has received funding from the following entities (in addition to numerous individuals)

BHP Billiton
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Exxon Mobil Corporation
Irish Aid
National Institutes of Health
Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation
Rockefeller Foundation
Roll Back Malaria Partnership
Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
United Kingdom Department for International Development
United States Agency for International Development
Wellcome Trust
World Bank

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