Enhancing Access to Medicines: Is Health Promoted or Hampered by IP Protection?

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By Rouba Chalabi
Enhancing Access to Medicines:
Is Health Promoted or Hampered by IP Protection?

- How can IP promote access?
- Does IP pose a barrier to access to medicine?
- What are the factors affecting access to healthcare?
- Do patents impact prices?
- How does Pfizer promote access to medicines?
- What would increase access to medicines?
Governments provide companies w/ R&D incentives (IP) ➔ Pharma companies launch new medicines ➔ Innovative cures are rapidly introduced

Unmet medical needs of patients are addressed ➔ Physician have access to a wide portfolio of medicines to select best fit for their patients

Diseases are treated & cured ➔ Patients experience improvement in quality of life ➔ Healthier, more productive population

How can IP Promote Access?
Attaran (2004) showed that a vast majority of the 319 drugs on the WHO Essential Drug List are not patented – yet not available in most lower and middle-income countries.

Attaran & Gillespie-White (2001) showed that few ARVs are on-patent anywhere in Africa. Yet at the time, access was limited. Access to medicines is principally affected by factors other than IP.

Source: Health Affairs, Volume 23, Number 3, 2004

Source: JAMA, October 17, 2001 – Vol 286, No.15
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political, Social &amp; Economic</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Healthcare System</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fledgling democracy</td>
<td>• Poor healthcare infrastructure</td>
<td>• Healthcare funding and Intro of NHI</td>
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<td>• Governance issues</td>
<td>• Shortage of primary healthcare facilities</td>
<td>• ~18% of total health expenditure out–of–pocket (2008)</td>
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<td>• Rising incomes &amp; growing middle class</td>
<td>• Crumbling hospital infrastructure</td>
<td>• Delays in medicine registration approvals</td>
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<td>• Urban to Rural Disparity</td>
<td>• Fragmented health operational system</td>
<td>• Pricing policies not allowing efficient segmentation of markets / inability to implement tier pricing</td>
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<td>• Language barriers / poorly informed patients and caregivers</td>
<td>• Shortage of doctors, healthcare workers</td>
<td>• Health outcomes are 45% of what they should be for a comparable level of expenditure</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Transportation</td>
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<td>• Electricity &amp; water supply</td>
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Do Patents Impact Prices?

Price levels

- Taxes
- Exchange Fluctuations
- Inflation
- Markups
- Distribution conditions
- Price Controls
- Differing Treatment Modalities
Do Patents Impact Prices?

Affordability - Is the Problem the Drug or the Disease?
Drug Life-Cycle (circa 2000)

- Infinite price at one unit in the absence of drug invention
- Patent Expiration
- Where generics are accepted and there are no price controls post-patent 'commodity competition drives prices further lower
But generics will also be unaffordable to some populations

Drug invention makes new therapy available and the price becomes 'finite' and declines over more units and time because of therapeutic competition and economies of scale, depending on a country’s regulatory system (e.g. based on ICH standards)

Source: Dr H. E. Bale
How does Pfizer Promote Access to Medicines?

- R&D for Drugs for Developing World Diseases
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- New Commercial Models
New Commercial Models

- Supplying up to 480 million doses of pneumococcal vaccines under the *Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation’s* Advance Market Commitment, allowing least-developed countries to procure vaccines at an affordable and sustainable price.

- **E-card** offering discounts on specific Pfizer medicines & participation in disease management programs – local regulation permitting

- **Low income customer access model**: community representatives, patient education/adherence programs, discount coupons, & telemedicine – local regulation permitting

- **The Sutent Access Program**: addresses access, affordability and commercial viability of cancer treatment
Global Health Fellows program: Pfizer employees participate in short term assignments to strengthen HC infrastructure & services for underserved communities. To date Pfizer has sent a total of 28 Fellows to South Africa between 2003 & 2011.

The Diflucan® Partnership distributes millions of Diflucan® treatments for AIDS-related fungal infections free-of-charge. This program has its foundations in South Africa and now reaches thousands of patients since its inception in the year 2000.

Global Health Partnerships: advancing cancer- and tobacco-control initiatives

“Mobilize Against Malaria" addressed gaps in treatment and education in Africa.

The International Trachoma Initiative to treat and prevent blindness

The Infectious Diseases Institute training extended to healthcare providers from 27 African countries.
R&D for Drugs for Developing World Diseases

- **HIV/AIDS**: ViiV healthcare company, established by Pfizer & GSK, provides not for profit pricing for all antiretroviral medicines in 64 countries + royalty-free voluntary licensing in 69 countries.

- **Malaria**: Late-stage development of oral combination therapy for the treatment of pregnant women, infants and children.

- **Tuberculosis**: Research activity around oxazolidinones antibiotic

- **Neglected Tropical Diseases Open Innovation R&D (WIPO Research and Gates Foundation)**: Pfizer offering access to select compound libraries and other proprietary assets such as regulatory data, know-how and other forms of IP to accelerate research.
What Would Increase Access to Medicines?

- Sound healthcare policies
- Training, product support and safety surveillance
- Collaboration with the innovative companies
- Adequate financing
- Political will
- Well managed health systems
- Healthcare infrastructure

Access to Medicines =
Thank You!

Rouba Chalabi
Senior Manager, Public Affairs and Policy
Africa & the Middle East
Pfizer
Rouba.Chalabi@Pfizer.com