

September 1, 2008

**Invitation to DNDi's public symposium
"India: Catalyst in Drug Development for Neglected Diseases?"
October 13, 2008**

Greetings from DNDi :

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to attend the DNDi public symposium "**India: Catalyst in Drug Development for Neglected Diseases?**". The public symposium will take place on **October 13th, 2008** at **5 pm** at Assocham House, in **New Delhi** (47, Prithviraj Road, opposite to Safdarjung Tomb, New Delhi-110011).

Exploring the present and future role of India in drug research and development, access, and capacity strengthening, the symposium will focus particularly on neglected diseases. Neglected diseases like AIDS, TB, malaria, and other infectious and parasitic diseases such as leishmaniasis and sleeping sickness, affect more than a billion people across the globe, yet the population in need lacks the essential therapies to effectively address them. India has a key role to play as an innovator in the development of new medicines and diagnostics for these neglected diseases: the launch of the DNDi office in India is a cornerstone of DNDi's development strategy.

The public symposium will bring together world renowned health experts, researchers, clinicians, and pharmaceutical executives from India and around the world, as well as DNDi's key Indian partners including Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Advinus Therapeutics, Kala Azar Medical Research Centre, Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, GVK BIO, and Cipla.

Following the symposium, you are invited to a reception to mark **the launch of DNDi's office in India**, which also coincides with DNDi's fifth birthday. It will be a time to celebrate the momentum gathered in the past 5 years, including the increasing number of DNDi activities and partners in India, as well as a time to consider the opportunities and challenges ahead.

When: 13 October 2008, at 5 pm
Where: Assocham House, in New Delhi (47, Prithviraj Road, opposite to Safdarjung Tomb, New Delhi-110011)
What: "India: Catalyst in Drug Development for Neglected Diseases?" and launch of DNDi's office in India.
Who: Health and R&D Indian key representatives. Please RSVP by September 15 to Bhawna Sharma: +91 11 2373 1635 / bsharma@dndi.org

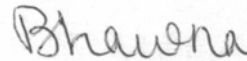
Thank you for confirming by September 15 whether or not you will be able to attend at the public symposium and the reception. For confirmation or further information, please contact Bhawna Sharma: +91 11 2373 1635 / bsharma@dndi.org.

We look forward to your participation at this dynamic event which will engage the Indian R&D community on neglected diseases.

Best regards,



Bernard Pécoul, MD, MPH
Executive Director
DNDi Geneva



Bhawna Sharma, MSc, PhD
Head
DNDi India Regional Support Office

About DNDi

The Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi) is an independent, not-for-profit product development partnership working to research and develop new and improved treatments for neglected diseases such as malaria, leishmaniasis, human African trypanosomiasis, and Chagas disease. With the objective to address unmet patient needs for these diseases, DNDi was established in 2003 by the Indian Council of Medical Research along with three other publicly-funded research organizations in neglected disease-endemic countries, and Institut Pasteur, and Médecins Sans Frontières. Working in partnership with industry and academia, DNDi has the largest ever R&D portfolio for the kinetoplastid diseases and currently has 2 post-registration, 5 clinical, and 4 preclinical projects, along with a variety of concerted discovery efforts. In 2007, DNDi delivered its first product, a fixed-dose antimalarial “ASAQ”, in partnership with sanofi-aventis in 2007. In April 2008, DNDi delivered its second product, fixed-dose “ASMQ”, with Farmanguinhos as first-line treatment for children and adults suffering from uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria cases in Latin America and Asia.

DNDi India was recently opened in Delhi to support its research activities in India, namely the support of ongoing research activities related to developing new and improved treatments for leishmaniasis and malaria.