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J&J commits $500 M investment to eliminate of HIV and TB

07 October 2019 | News

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Johnson & Johnson has committed to ensuring more than $500 million is dedicated to world class research & development and delivery programs over the next four years to accelerate global efforts to eliminate HIV and tuberculosis (TB) by 2030. As one of the world's largest healthcare companies, Johnson & Johnson is deeply engaged in global health innovation, working closely with governments and strategic partners to improve the health and well-being of more people in more places around the world.

"No single institution can tackle the historic challenge of eliminating an infectious disease," said Paul Stoffels, MD, Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee and Chief Scientific Officer at Johnson & Johnson. "By advancing our technologies, uniting our best scientists and leveraging decades of experience in HIV and TB, we're optimistic that we can make a significant contribution to the global effort."

Building on a strong track record set by its Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies in the areas of HIV and TB and Johnson & Johnson's existing Health for Humanity 2020 Goals, Johnson & Johnson will dedicate a team of world-class researchers who will leverage our scientific resources to accelerate the discovery, development and delivery of next generation medicines and vaccines to complement investments being made by governments.

This investment in innovation has the potential to positively impact the day-to-day lives of millions of people affected by both HIV and TB and maximize the efficiency of country investments in health over the long-term. In doing so, these efforts will also support the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 targets when combined with other global programs.

HIV

The Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) have been committed to the fight against HIV for more than 25 years. Over this time, the Company has introduced eight transformational HIV medicines – including three antiviral agents and five combination products developed in partnership – which have helped to transform HIV/AIDS from a death sentence into a chronic, manageable disease, allowing millions of people living with HIV to lead near normal lives.

"Although HIV is now considered a chronic and manageable condition, people living with HIV still face a lifetime of taking daily pills. We therefore must continue to advance important innovations to help them," said Johan Van Hoof, MD, Global Therapeutic Area Head, Vaccines, and Managing Director, Janssen Vaccines & Prevention B.V., Janssen Pharmaceutica NV. "The global challenge remains immense. With 37 million people around the world living with HIV – and nearly two million people newly-infected each year – we cannot treat ourselves out of the HIV epidemic. Our ultimate goal must be to find a preventive vaccine for HIV."

As part of the $500 million investment, Janssen will continue to advance an investigational mosaic-based vaccine regimen to prevent HIV together with a consortium of partners. An ongoing efficacy trial (Imbokodo) in 2,600 women in Southern Africa is fully enrolled. A second efficacy trial (Mosaico) is about to commence in North America, South America and Europe with 3,800 men who have sex with men and transgender individuals.

In partnership with ViiV Healthcare, Janssen is also investigating a long-acting injectable HIV treatment regimen that could be administered to patients once every two months. This regimen, if approved, could potentially reduce HIV treatment for some patients to just twelve or even six injection visits per year to keep the virus under control, instead of a daily oral treatment taken 365 times per year

Tuberculosis

In 2012, Janssen introduced bedaquiline, which was the first TB medicine with a novel mechanism of action in nearly half a century. Since then, the Company has provided more than 145,000 courses of treatment for multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) patients in 131 countries, including through a four-year donation program that operated in the 2015-2019 period in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development and JSC Pharmstandard.

At the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis in September 2018, Johnson & Johnson announced a comprehensive 10-year initiative to support ending the TB epidemic by 2030, which builds on our current Health for Humanity 2020 TB Goal. With the goal of saving an estimated 1.8 million lives and preventing 12 million new TB infections in the next decade, Johnson & Johnson is working with partners to improve detection of undiagnosed cases of TB, broaden access to bedaquiline, and accelerate research & development (R&D) to discover next-generation TB treatments.