A DECADE of RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT for NEGLECTED PATIENTS
A Decade of R&D for Neglected Patients
DNDi Asia

Wednesday, 3 October 2012
Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Programme

09:30 Welcome address by Organising Chairman, Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr Haji Mohd Ismail Merican

09:45 Dr Bernard Pécoul, Executive Director, DNDi – Reflections on 10 Years of Challenges and Successes of the DNDi Partnership Model

10:00 Keynote address by the Honourable Minister of Health of Malaysia, Dato’ Sri Liow Tiong Lai

Walking tour of photo exhibition: ‘A Decade of R&D for Neglected Patients in South East Asia’

10:30 – 11:10 - Press Conference (media only)

11:15 Expert Panel: Strengthening the Portfolio of Fixed-Dose Combination ACTs – The Case of ASMQ

Chair: Professor Simon Croft, Professor of Parasitology and Head of the Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK

- ACTs for Malaria in South East Asia: Benefits and Challenges – Professor François Nosten, Shoklo Malaria Research Unit, Thailand
- WHO Recommendations for Malaria Treatment – Focus on ACTs – Dr Lasse Vestergaard, Medical Officer, Combating Communicable Diseases, Western Pacific Regional Office, World Health Organization, the Philippines
- ASMQ FDC Development: A Partnership Approach – Dr Jean-René Klechel, Senior Pharmaceutical Advisor & Product Manager, DNDi
- Technology Transfer of ASMQ from Malaysia to Brazil to India – Ana Rabello, Senior Researcher at Oswaldo Cruz Foundation – Fiocruz, Brazil
- Investing in Neglected Diseases – ASMQ Implementation in South East Asia – Dr Jaideep Gogtay, Medical Director, Cipla Ltd, India
- ASMQ in a South East Asia Public Health Perspective – Datuk Dr Lokman Hakim Sulaiman, Deputy Director General of Health, Malaysia

12:15 Lunch
Speakers and Chairs

Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr Haji Mohd Ismail Merican, MD

Former Director General of Health, Malaysia
Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Governors, MAHSA University College, Malaysia
Senior Consultant Physician and Senior Consultant Hepatologist at Kuala Lumpur Hospital and Selayang Hospital, Malaysia

Mohd Ismail Merican was the Director General of Health, Malaysia from 2005 to 2011. He is currently Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Governors of MAHSA University College. In addition he is Senior Consultant Physician and Senior Consultant Hepatologist at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital and Selayang Hospital, Malaysia.

After graduating from the University of Malaya, Dr Merican went on to pursue his postgraduate education in Internal Medicine in 1980 at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at the Hammersmith Hospital in London. In 1990, he was awarded the Commonwealth Fellowship Award and returned to London for training in hepatology at the Royal Free Hospital. He is the founder and the current President of the Malaysian Liver Foundation. His expertise in liver disease is widely acknowledged and his guidance frequently sought after by various international organisations such as the World Health Organization, United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.

Dr Merican was the personal physician to the King in 1982, Sultan of Selangor in 1984, 1990 and 1994 and to the Governor of Penang from 1989 until 2002. He has been conferred many academic, civil and honorary awards, including the distinguished award of Tan Sri and was bestowed the ‘Most Outstanding Fellow of the Year’ by the Japanese Council for Medical Training in 1987.

He is still deeply committed to undertaking research work on his area of interest, liver disease. He has, to date, numerous publications in local, regional and international peer-reviewed journals.

Dr Merican is an honorary clinical consultant with the Medical Faculties of Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), and others. In his official capacity, he chairs many regulatory, advisory, registration and licensing committees and expert groups.
Bernard Pécout, MD, MPH

Executive Director, DNDi

Dr. Bernard Pécout has led DNDi (Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative) since its foundation in 2003. Under his guidance, DNDi—a not-for-profit research and development organization—and its partners have built the largest-ever R&D portfolio for kinetoplastid diseases (leishmaniasis, sleeping sickness, and Chagas disease) as well as developing treatments for malaria.

In 2011, DNDi extended the scope of its portfolio to include specific helminth infections and paediatric HIV. Since its inception, DNDi has delivered six new treatments through partnerships with public and private organizations worldwide, and aims to deliver a total of 11 to 13 new field-adapted treatments for neglected diseases by 2018.

Prior to DNDi, Dr. Pécout was Director of the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines from 1998 to 2003, a position he took on after that of Executive Director of MSF-France. While working with MSF, Dr. Pécout carried out field missions in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. In 1988, he co-founded Epicentre, an MSF-affiliated NGO specialized in epidemiology.

After obtaining his medical degree at the University of Clermont-Ferrand, France, Dr. Pécout earned a master’s degree in public health at Tulane University, USA. In 2012, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree by the University of Dundee, UK. Bernard Pécout is member of the Joint Coordination Board of the Special Programme for Tropical Disease Research (WHO/TDR) and a board member of Unitaid’s Medicines Patent Pool Initiative.

Simon Croft, PhD

Professor of Parasitology and Head of the Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK.

Simon Croft is Professor of Parasitology and Head of the Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK. He trained as a parasitologist at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and, after post-doctoral periods in the laboratory researching anti-parasite drug mechanisms and in the field working on the transmission of African trypanosomiasis, he moved to research on drug discovery and development. His expertise and knowledge of anti-protozoal chemotherapy was developed during the 5 years he spent with the Wellcome Research Laboratories, Beckenham, UK in the 1980s. Following his return to academia, Simon focused his research on the identification and evaluation of novel drugs and formulations for the treatment of leishmaniasis, malaria, human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) and South American trypanosomiasis (Chagas disease). This research included projects on miltefosine, Ambisome and topical paromomycin, all of which reached clinical trials for the treatment of leishmaniasis.
François Henri Nosten, MD, PhD

Professor of Tropical Medicine, Centre for Tropical Medicine, Churchill Hospital, Oxford, UK; Director, Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (SMRU), Mae Sot, Tak, Thailand; Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

Francois Nosten is Professor of Tropical Medicine at Oxford University (UK) and works as part of the Mahidol-Oxford-University Research Unit in Thailand. With Prof. N.J. White, he established the Shoklo Malaria Research Unit on the Thai-Myanmar border in 1986. This research programme is unique because it combines health services and research to address the most important health issues in the population living on the border and thus excluded from the health systems of either Thailand or Myanmar. During these 26 years, Prof. Nosten and his team have studied the epidemiology, the treatment, and the prevention of malaria with a particular focus on pregnant women and children.

The research unit has become the largest centre of clinical trials on malaria by the number of patients recruited. They pioneered the artemisinin-based combination treatments and the impact of this work was a dramatic reduction in malaria burden and as a result in morbidity and mortality caused by the disease. In recent years, SMRU has expanded it work to other infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, leptospirosis, typhus and dengue.

Lasse Skafte Vestergaard, MD, PhD

Medical Officer, Combatting Communicable Diseases, Western Pacific Regional Office, World Health Organization

Dr Lasse Vestergaard, MD PhD, works as a Medical Officer at the WHO Office in the Philippines, supporting the Department of Health and its National Malaria Control & Elimination Programme, as well as supporting surveillance and control of other communicable diseases. From December 2008 to January 2012 he played a similar role working for WHO in Vanuatu. Apart from direct country support he serves a regional role for Western Pacific regional Office in the areas of malaria elimination, drug resistance monitoring and vivax research. Prior to WHO he worked in various areas of communicable diseases, epidemiology and global health, involving a number of clinical, epidemiological and operational research projects on malaria in Tanzania and elsewhere. He has undertaken a number of assignments on antimalarial drug efficacy for WHO and the Global Fund in Geneva, and has been a member of the WHO Malaria Treatment Guidelines Development Committee.
Jean-René Kiechel, PhD

Senior Pharmaceutical Advisor & Product Manager, DNDi

Dr Kiechel, as the Senior Project Manager for the FACT project, manages the development of combination malaria therapies ASAQ and ASMQ. Notably, he was initially part of the DND working group, before joining DNDi as a founding team member in 2003.

Dr Kiechel has over 30 years of experience in pharmaceutical research and development, having held various scientific management positions in industry, in Switzerland, the USA, and France with Sandoz, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, and Aventis. He has contributed to the success of six drug registrations and the preparation of several INDs.

Dr Kiechel earned his PhD in Chemistry (minor in Pharmacology) from the University of Basel in Switzerland and completed additional training in Clinical Pharmacology in the UK and the USA, as well as the Advanced Management Program at Stanford- INSEAD.

Ana Rabello, MD, PhD

Senior researcher at Oswaldo Cruz Foundation – Fiocruz, Brazil

Ana Rabello is a medical doctor, specialized in Internal Medicine and in Clinical Pathology, with Master and PhD in Tropical Medicine at the Federal University of Minas Gerais state - Brazil.

Since 1989, Dr Rabello has been at the Fiocruz, Brazil, where she is head of the Laboratory of Clinical Research in the field of infectious diseases and coordinates the Leishmaniasis Clinical Reference Center, both at the Fiocruz unit in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais state.

She is professor and supervisor at the post-graduate Programme of Health Sciences and coordinates courses on Ethics of Research involving Humans and on Leishmaniasis. Dr Rabello has published over 80 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Her main research interests are control measures of leishmaniasis, experimental and clinical therapy of leishmaniasis, diagnosis of leishmaniasis and schistosomiasis.

Since 1996, Ana Rabello has a Scholarship in Research Productivity of the Brazilian National Council Research and since 2009; she is also the coordinator of Programme for Innovation and Technical Development for Public Health of Fiocruz Presidency.
Jaideep A. Gogtay, MD

Medical Director, Cipla Ltd

Dr Jaideep A. Gogtay completed his medical graduation (M.B.B.S) from Grant Medical College and Sir J J Group of Hospitals in Mumbai, India.

He then completed his M.D, in Pharmacology from Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital. During his post graduate days he worked as a lecturer in pharmacology. Since 1994 he has been working with Cipla Ltd and is currently Medical Director. He has closely been involved in the development and introduction of several drugs in various therapeutic fields particularly HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases and respiratory diseases.

He has worked on several clinical trials in the field of asthma and COPD and infectious diseases. He was involved in setting up of the Chest Research Foundation (CRF). This is now an independent research centre dedicated to conducting research in the field of respiratory medicine.

He has participated and spoken at several national and international forums and has been actively involved in educational activities. He was a member of the Association of Physicians of India guidelines 2005 on 'Antiretroviral therapy' and has over 20 publications and presentations at conferences.

Datuk Dr Lokman Hakim Sulaiman, MD, PhD

Deputy Director General of Health, Malaysia

Dr Lokman Hakim bin Sulaiman graduated as Medical Doctor in 1985 from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and obtained a SEAMEO-TROPMED postgraduate diploma in Applied Parasitology in 1988.

In addition, he earned a Master’s degree in Public Health from the National University of Singapore in 1990 and a PhD in Medical Parasitology from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in 2002.

He has served in various capacities with the Pahang State Health Department before joining the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) in 1991. At the IMR, his main research interests include malaria and filariasis during the early years and later in the areas of environmental health and infection transmission dynamics. During those years at the IMR, he has served as Head, WHO Collaborating Centre for Brugian Filariasis and Dean, SEAMEO-TROPMED School for Applied Parasitology and Entomology.

He has also provided various consultancy and training services for WHO, SEAMEO-TROPMED, the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) and Ministry of Health (MoH). In late 2009, he joined the MoH as the Director of Disease Control Division and in April 2011 assumed the post of Deputy Director General of Health. He has published 46 articles in peer reviewed journals and 16 technical reports and proceedings for the MoH and Academy of Malaysia.