

## **Astellas Pharma Inc.: Participation in “Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund)”**

*- Japan’s first public-private partnership to advance the development of new health technologies for the developing world -*

**TOKYO, April 8, 2013** - Astellas Pharma Inc. (“Astellas”; Tokyo:4503; President and CEO: Yoshihiko Hatanaka) today announced that Astellas participated in the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund), the first public-private partnership of its kind in Japan. The GHIT Fund has been established to advance the research and development of new medicines, vaccines and diagnostics to fight infectious diseases in the developing world which Astellas has supported its purpose.

The GHIT Fund is supported by the Government of Japan, five Japanese pharmaceutical companies including Astellas, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The GHIT Fund aims to reinforce Japan’s contribution to global health by developing new health technologies for HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)<sup>(1)</sup> through utilizing the highly developed science and technology capacity found at the country’s pharmaceutical companies, universities and research institutions. Also, the GHIT Fund will facilitate and fund global R&D of new health technologies through partnership creation, providing grants for promising research. The fund will help bridge the gap between basic research and clinical studies accelerating the development of unprecedented medicines, vaccines and diagnostics to eliminate infectious diseases in the developing world.

Astellas is committed to accelerate the discovery of new drugs for patients suffering from NTDs in the world, through our commitment on collaborative drug-discovery research projects especially for new anti-protozoan or anti-dengue virus drugs, which have been advanced with multiple leading research institutes in Japan. Astellas also contributes to the development of the first-ever pediatric formulation of praziquantel. Astellas believes that the participation in GHIT Fund is as part of such efforts. Astellas will continue to contribute to improve global public health problems by promoting further drug-discovery for patients infected with and suffering from NTDs.

### **(1) Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)**

NTDs are infections caused by parasites, bacteria and viruses which are mainly endemic in tropical areas of developing countries. It is estimated that over 1 billion people are affected worldwide only with the 17 diseases\* of NTDs on which currently WHO is focusing on. Since these patients do not have enough access to needed medicine and healthcare, NTDs are not only a global health challenge but are said to be associated with poverty and affect economic growth in developing countries.

\* Group of 17 diseases : Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis), cysticercosis, dengue fever/dengue hemorrhagic fever, dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease), echinococcosis, foodborne trematode infections, human African trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, rabies, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminthiasis, trachoma, endemic treponematoses (including yaws)

**About the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund)**

The Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund) is an international non-profit organization aimed to advance the research and development (R&D) of new health technologies from Japan to fight infectious diseases prevalent specifically in the developing world, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Established as a public-private partnership between the Government of Japan, a consortium of pharmaceutical companies and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the GHIT Fund facilitates and funds the R&D of new health technologies through partnership creation and grant-making activities. To learn more about GHIT Fund, please see [www.ghitfund.org](http://www.ghitfund.org).

**Astellas Pharma Inc. (Astellas)**

Astellas’ raison d’etre is to contribute toward improving the health of people around the world through the provision of innovative and reliable pharmaceutical products. Astellas has approximately 17,000 employees worldwide. The organization is committed to becoming a global category leader in Urology, Immunology (including Transplantation) and Infectious Diseases, Oncology, Neuroscience and DM Complications and Kidney Diseases. For more information on Astellas Pharma Inc., please visit the company website at [www.astellas.com/en/](http://www.astellas.com/en/)

Astellas is committed to improving “Access to Health\*\*” in developing countries through its partnership initiatives. As part of the contribution to Access to Health, Astellas is committed to undertake an initiative of drug discovery for patients infected with and suffering from NTDs in the world by utilizing its know-how and assets of drug discovery research.

\*\* : Many therapeutic areas and diseases with high unmet medical needs remain in the world. Furthermore, there are many people who are unable to access adequate medical care due to poverty or weak health systems. Astellas recognized these remaining issues as “Access to Health” and proactively addresses them as responsible corporate citizen.

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