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## INTRODUCTION

The Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health (CIPRH) was created by the World Health Assembly in 2003, “to collect data and proposals from the different actors involved and produce an analysis of intellectual property rights, innovation, and public health, including the question of appropriate funding and incentive mechanisms for the creation of new medicines and other products against diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries.”<sup>1</sup>

As an essential component of its work, CIPRH is engaging many relevant stakeholders, including the biomedical industry. At the request of CIPRH, we assembled an informal advisory group of representatives across the biomedical industry, including representatives from the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical devices, vaccines and diagnostic industries. This group is referred to as the Biomedical Industry Advisory Group (BIAG).

On behalf of the thousands of colleagues across the globe working in the biomedical industry, we are pleased to offer our expertise, insights and relevant supporting data on the impact of intellectual property rights, research and development for diseases disproportionately affecting the developing world, and the need for innovative therapeutics in improving public health worldwide. While such discussions are not new to governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the biomedical industry and other stakeholders, we greatly appreciate CIPRH’s effort to examine the breadth of these issues from a variety of perspectives in order to find new ground for agreement and action.

Ultimately, our joint success will be measured to the extent we alter the global burden of disease. We accomplish this most effectively by saving lives and improving the quality of life with innovative therapeutics that are available, accessible and affordable.

Encouraging innovation is key to this process, and intellectual property rights fuel innovation. As we share our experiences and perspectives on these issues, the biomedical industry stands ready to strengthen its already substantial role in discovering, developing and delivering new treatments to save and improve lives around the world.

But we can’t do it alone. Industry, government, NGOs, academia, and others must combine their different missions, capabilities, resources and strengths to encourage innovation and productivity for the benefit of all. We can certainly accomplish much more, with less cost and duplication of effort, when we work in partnership to bring our special strengths to bear on these problems of the healthcare industry.

We hope the enclosed fact-based presentation from the biomedical industry will help focus the discussions and contribute to a new and mutually constructive dialogue on these critical issues.

<sup>1</sup> From Resolution WHA56.27, adopted May 28, 2003 at the 56th World Health Assembly.

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## **BIOMEDICAL INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP**

**Veronique Ameye**, Head of Corporate Public Affairs of Aventis (worldwide) and Deputy Director General of Laboratoires Aventis (France)  
[Veronique.ameye@aventis.com](mailto:Veronique.ameye@aventis.com)

**Richard Auty**, Chairman of Molecular Nature Ltd and Visiting Professor of Medicine in the College of Medicine, University of Malawi  
[richard.auty@ntlworld.com](mailto:richard.auty@ntlworld.com)

**Harvey Bale**, Director General, IFPMA, and BIAG Coordinator [h.bale@ifpma.org](mailto:h.bale@ifpma.org)

**Tsuri Bernstein**, Global IP Manager, GE Med Systems,  
[Tsur.Bernstein@med.ge.com](mailto:Tsur.Bernstein@med.ge.com)

**Peter B. Corr**, Senior Vice President for Science and Technology, Pfizer Inc  
[peter.corr@pfizer.com](mailto:peter.corr@pfizer.com)

**Thomas Cueni**, Secretary General, Interpharma [tcueni@interpharma.ch](mailto:tcueni@interpharma.ch)

**Giampiero de Luca**, European Patent Attorney, Intellectual Property, Chief Counsel, Serono International S.A.  
[giampiero.deluca@serono.com](mailto:giampiero.deluca@serono.com)

**Isabelle Girault**, HIV/AIDS Director in the Government Affairs Department for GlaxoSmithKline [isabelle.s.girault@gsk.com](mailto:isabelle.s.girault@gsk.com)

**Brian Healy**, Vice President Economic and Industry Policy, Merck & Co. Inc.  
[brian\\_healy@merck.com](mailto:brian_healy@merck.com)

**Paul Herrling**, Head of Corporate Research, Novartis International AG  
[paul.herrling@group.novartis.com](mailto:paul.herrling@group.novartis.com)

**Kenneth Kaitin**, Director, Associate Professor of Medicine, Center for the Study of Drug Development, Tufts University School of Medicine  
[Kenneth.kaitin@tufts.edu](mailto:Kenneth.kaitin@tufts.edu)

**Jacqueline Keith**, Vice President, International Trade and Health, Wyeth-Ayerst Pharmaceuticals  
[keithj@wyeth.com](mailto:keithj@wyeth.com)

**Lynn Marks**, Senior Vice President, Infectious Diseases & Oncology Medicine Development Centre, Worldwide Development, GlaxoSmithKline Pharma  
[Lynn.g.marks@gsk.com](mailto:Lynn.g.marks@gsk.com)

**Akio Ohno**, Corporate Officer and Director, Intellectual Property Department, Sankyo Co. Ltd [akoono@sankyo.co.jp](mailto:akoono@sankyo.co.jp)

**Mats Pårup**, Head of Corporate Intellectual Property, Novartis  
[mats.parup@group.novartis.com](mailto:mats.parup@group.novartis.com)

**Swati Piramal**, Director, Chief Scientific Officer, Nicholas Piramal India Limited  
[sapiramal@nicholaspiramal.co.in](mailto:sapiramal@nicholaspiramal.co.in)

**Alan Shaw**, Executive Director, Virus & Cellular Biology, Merck Research Laboratories, Merck & Co. Inc. [alan\\_r\\_shaw@merck.com](mailto:alan_r_shaw@merck.com)

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