Welcome to the February 2016 newsletter of the Lancet Commission on Essential Medicine Policies

Recent Updates

The 69th World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2016 will discuss topics related to medicines, among others
- addressing the global shortages of medicines,
- safety and accessibility of children’s medication, and
- comprehensive evaluation of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property.

The Lancet Report on Essential Medicines Policy will address these topics and make recommendations regarding a global strategy on public health, innovation and intellectual property.

More about the upcoming WHA can be found at: [http://apps.who.int/gb/e/exEB138.html](http://apps.who.int/gb/e/exEB138.html)

Recent Publications


Upcoming Events and News relevant to Essential Medicine Policies

WHO EML 2017: Applications for inclusion of new medicines, and changes to or deletion of currently listed medicines in the EML and EMLc now open until 2 December 2016.

Rethinking regulation and value assessment of medical technologies: challenges and opportunities, London, United Kingdom, March 8-9 2016

Spotlight: Lancet EMP Commissioner: Bernard Pécout, MD, MPH, Executive Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi)

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Dr Bernard Pécout has led the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) since its foundation in 2003. Under his guidance, DNDi – a not-for-profit research and development organization – with hundreds of public and private partners, has delivered six new treatments for the most neglected diseases (leishmaniasis, sleeping sickness, and Chagas disease) and for malaria. It has developed a robust portfolio of projects spanning from discovery to implementation for these diseases as well as filaria, paediatric HIV, mycetoma, and hepatitis C. As part of DNDi’s dynamic portfolio approach, Pécout is also leading the incubation of a product development partnership to address R&D for new antibiotic treatments.

DNDi aims to deliver a total of 16 to 18 new treatments for neglected patients by 2023, with a total of EUR 650 million, spanning 10 disease areas. The initiative, through its R&D work, also builds capacity in disease endemic countries through research platforms and technology transfers and advocates for greater public leadership to sustainably address the health needs of neglected patients.

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.
Recent publications of interest:


