

April 28, 2006

Mr. Jeffrey Devlin
Ms. Jean Marie Dolenc
Mr. Jim Howley, MA
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Dear Jeff, Jean Marie, and Jim:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with our coalition of concerned doctors, students, and activists from the Chicago community on April 17. The discussion was very enlightening for all of us and clarified many of Abbott's stances on the issues for which we are advocating.

While we think there was considerable progress made during the meeting regarding a number of demands, including timelines for the development of a pediatric version of the new Meltrex formulation of Kaletra and Abbott's pursuance of a Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (CCP) from the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), we think there is even more room for discussion and collaboration around issues of licensing and pricing for middle-income countries confronted with the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We believe that Abbott Laboratories could become the industry leader in providing affordable second-line drugs to those in the Global South. In order to do so, we emphasize the importance of registering new Kaletra in all countries enrolled in Abbott's ACCESS Initiative. That would mean an immediate filing of dossiers to all countries' national drug regulatory authorities without awaiting a CPP from either the FDA or the European Agency for Evaluation of Medical Products (EMA). Further, we encourage the ongoing development of a pediatric version of new Kaletra and recognize and applaud the initiative and advances made by Abbott so far.

While Abbott continues to work to expedite the registration processes for making new Kaletra available in the Global South, we implore Abbott to change its policies around pricing for middle-income countries hit with high HIV-burdens. The high prices negotiated by Abbott and the governments of countries like the Ukraine, Guatemala, and Honduras, are priced too far out of the reach of the poor – making access to these drugs impossible.

Relief from the high price of living with HIV/AIDS in a middle-income country must happen immediately. Abbott has been asked to expand its current ACCESS initiative to cover 48 more countries. With regard to participation in the ACCESS initiative, Abbott lags behind its competitors in the industry, covering the

narrowest geographic scope with its low-tier pricing offers while pushing for high prices in places like Russia.

To further alleviate the high price of Kaletra in middle-income countries, we encourage Abbott to grant open, voluntary licenses to governments and generic manufacturers. We believe it is irresponsible to prioritize the intellectual property rights for a life-saving drug when millions die every year from lack of access to treatment. Due to the growing number of people in need of second-line drugs, generic competition will be essential in guaranteeing universal treatment access, whether in Sub-Saharan Africa or Central America.

We very much appreciate the level of engagement that you have begun with us and look forward to many fruitful meetings and discussions in the future. As mentioned at the meeting, we hope to meet again in May for a follow-up discussion. At that time, we look forward to learning more about progress with European Union registration and other issues.

Sincerely,

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cc: Ms. Reeta Roy