



**International Geneva**  
**Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors**

**The Medicines Patent Pool | MPP**

<http://www.medicinespatentpool.org>

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**BACKGROUND AND MISSION**

The Medicines Patent Pool is a [United Nations-backed public health international organisation](#) working to increase access to, and facilitate the development of, life-saving medicines for low- and middle-income countries. It was founded in July 2010 by Unitaid as a response to the global need to find ways to provide affordable, high quality HIV/AIDS medicines to millions of people in developing countries. Its mandate was expanded in 2015 to include hepatitis C and tuberculosis medicines and in 2018 to patented medicines on WHO's Model List of Essential Medicines and those with strong potential for future inclusion. Since its creation, MPP has played a valuable role in supporting international efforts to increase access to priority medicines in resource-limited countries. Through its innovative business model, the organisation partners with civil society, governments, international organisations, industry, patient groups and other stakeholders, to prioritise and license needed medicines and pool intellectual property to encourage generic manufacture and the development of new formulations.

**AREAS OF INTEREST**

- HIV, hepatitis C, tuberculosis and other essential medicines
- Access to medicines in low- and middle-income countries
- Intellectual property and patented medicines
- Generic medicines
- Innovation

**HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

The Medicines Patent Pool is the first voluntary licensing and patent pooling mechanism in public health. It negotiates public health-oriented licences with patent holders, and sublicenses drugs to generic manufacturers for production and sale of affordable generic versions in developing countries. As of September 2019, MPP's generic manufacturing partners had supplied more than 9.5 billion doses of treatment and managed over 140 developments projects.

**GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

The Medicines Patent Pool has approximately 20 employees in Geneva, with a liaison office in India. MPP is governed by a [Governance Board](#), the highest decision-making authority. Dr. Marie-Paule Kieny is the current Chair of the Governance Board. The Expert Advisory Group ([EAG](#)) advises the Governance Board and the Executive Director on MPP's licence negotiations and assesses whether the terms and conditions of the proposed licence

agreements meet the key requirements as set out by the MPP Statutes. The Scientific Advisory Panel ([SAP](#)), created in 2019, is composed of a pool of subject-matter experts who provide guidance and critical insights to the EAG and the Executive Director. The Executive Director is Charles Gore.

#### **FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET**

The Medicines Patent Pool was founded by Unitaid, which serves as its sole funder for MPP's activities in HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) funded the MPP's [feasibility study](#) exploring the expansion of its mandate to include other patented priority essential medicines beyond HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis. It is now funding MPP to implement its mandate expansion into patented essential medicines on WHO's Model List of Essential Medicines – and those with strong potential for future inclusion.

The Wellcome Trust funds MPP to concentrate on the key elements integral to implementing the MPP's expanded mandate.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

See: <http://www.medicinespatentpool.org/resources-publications/mpp-publications>

Overview of current licences negotiated by MPP: <https://medicinespatentpool.org/what-we-do/global-licence-overview/>

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