



TO: President Ronald J. Daniels, Johns Hopkins University
Office of the President
242 Garland Hall
The Johns Hopkins University
3400 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

CC: Christy Wyskiel, Senior Advisor to the President, Johns Hopkins University
Neil Veloso, Executive Director, Technology Transfer, Johns Hopkins University
Jill Uhl, Senior Director, Intellectual Property, Johns Hopkins University
Chan Park, General Counsel, Medicines Patent Pool

May 31st, 2016

Open Letter: acknowledgement of leadership and impact on drug and regimen development for tuberculosis

Dear President Daniels,

We are writing to you today as we recently became aware that the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) has disclosed on its website that it has entered into negotiations on sutezolid with an unnamed “research based university”. We sincerely hope we can assume this is Johns Hopkins University. If this is an accurate assumption, we would like to acknowledge and congratulate Johns Hopkins University’s decision to enter negotiations with the MPP regarding the licensing of worldwide non-exclusive rights to sutezolid, a promising candidate for the treatment of tuberculosis (TB).

As the first academic institution to contribute to the MPP under its new mandate in TB, Johns Hopkins University is showing important leadership in global health. The inclusion of appropriate terms and conditions in the licensing agreement under negotiation will help to expedite the development of sutezolid, which has been stalled in phase II for several years, by enabling interested researchers and institutions to access and investigate sutezolid as a component of desperately needed novel regimens for TB; and if proven, ensure equitable access for TB patients and treatment providers.

We commend the university for responding to requests from the TB community presented as a petition signed by more than 750 concerned individuals and organizations from around the world, including members of the Johns Hopkins University community, to pursue a public health driven path for sutezolid’s

development. This important decision will help to ensure the drug's expeditious and appropriate clinical development in combination with other medicines, and its future accessibility and affordability for TB patients and treatment providers around the world.

We look forward to the timely and appropriate finalization of the licensing agreement between Johns Hopkins University and the MPP, and appeal to the involved parties to ensure opportunity for public and expert input, including from members of TB-affected communities and this coalition, to the terms and conditions of the agreement under negotiation. Thank you for the prospect of renewed efforts to advance the development of newer and better treatment options for TB patients.

Sincerely,



Merith Basey
Executive Director, North America
Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM)

On behalf of UAEM and the following organizations:

Doctors without Borders (MSF USA) Access Campaign
Treatment Action Group
Global TB Community Advisory Board
Public Citizen
JHU current students and alumni