The Secretary of the WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines
Department of Medicines Policy and Standards
World Health Organization (WHO)
20 avenue Appia
1211- Genève 27

To whom it may concern,

I would like to support the application for the inclusion of dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (DHA+PPQ) in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.

This fixed dose ACT has been extensively investigated in recent years throughout the malaria-affected world, and found to be very well tolerated, safe, and reliably effective. It is how recommended by WHO as a first-line treatment option. The GMP product under consideration was co-developed by Sigma-tau and MMV (Medicines for Malaria Venture), and has been submitted to the European Medicines Agency, with approval expected in Q1 2011. After regulatory approval, the product will be submitted immediately to WHO Prequalification for assessment and hopefully inclusion in the list of prequalified medicines that can be used to treat malaria.

Although most malaria endemic countries have by now adopted artemisinin-based combination therapy as first-line treatment of falciparum malaria, it is still the case that only a minority of the patients that need artemisinin-based combination treatments actually receive them.

DHA+PPQ provides additional benefits in terms of post-treatment prophylaxis, reducing the incidence of recurrence after treatment.

DHA+PPQ is recommended in WHO’s 2010 Treatment Guidelines as a first-line treatment of uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria worldwide and has already been accepted as first-line and alternative treatment for *P. falciparum* by a number of national malaria programmes in endemic countries. This recommendation is based on objective evaluation of a substantial body of good quality published evidence.
I believe that DHA+PPQ has the potential to be a vital new tool in the fight against malaria. I hope the Expert Committee on Essential Medicines will consider this important new antimalarial for inclusion in the Essential Medicines List.

Yours sincerely

Chairman: Wellcome Trust SouthEast Asian Tropical Medicine Research Programmes

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