WHO to fast-track availability of diagnostics for Zika virus

There are no medical countermeasures to prevent or treat Zika on the market today, and many diagnostic tests are still in the early stages of development. EMP launched a call to diagnostic manufacturers in February to submit their products for emergency assessment to ensure their quality and performance. WHO emergency listing of new products gives a guarantee of quality-assurance and accelerates roll-out. More >

WHO finalises list of assistive products

A consultation on 21-22 March saw consensus reached on the top 50 products to be included in WHO’s Priority Assistive Products List. Essential products such as wheelchairs, spectacles, hearing aids, artificial limbs, communication and memory aids are among the products listed. Today, only 1 in 10 people globally have access to these products. More >

EMP advocates for public health approach to world drug problem

In the lead-up to UNGASS 2016, the UN Special Session on the world drug problem in April, WHO is actively engaging in activities to advocate for a public-health oriented approach to tackle drug dependence and low access to controlled substances such as pain medication. More >

Global Antibiotic Research & Development (GARD) Partnership
EMP and DNDi are jointly working towards developing new antibiotics, promoting responsible use, and ensuring access for all. During the 68th World Health Assembly in 2015, WHO adopted a Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (GAP-AMR), requesting WHO to establish a new partnership. As part of the implementation of this mandate, the DNDi Board of Directors approved the hosting of the incubation of the Global Antibiotic R&D (GARD) Partnership. More>

Drugs controlled in accordance with WHO advice

The key decision-making organ in the international drug control system, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), has decided to place seven drugs under international control after recommendations made by a WHO expert committee. The CND also decided to postpone consideration of whether to place ketamine under international control. More>

WHO Submission to the UN SG High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines

The UN Secretary-General High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines called for proposals to promote: "research, development, innovation and increased access to medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and related health technologies to improve the health and wellbeing of all, as envisaged by Sustainable Development Goal 3, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development more broadly. See WHO’s submission here

New publication on the role of intellectual property in local production
A new report provides patent information on a number of medicines to show that it is a simplification to describe a medicine as “under patent”. Patents are granted for national or regional jurisdictions. A complete landscape often reveals countries where patents have not been filed or granted and where local production could take place, provided quality production requirements are in place. 

More >

New SSFFC Website

The existence of substandard, spurious, falsely labelled, falsified and counterfeit (SSFFC) medical products is an unacceptable risk to public health. They affect every region of the world, and medicines from all major therapeutic categories have been reported, including vaccines and diagnostics. To keep countries and stakeholders involved, EMP launched a new website dedicated to SSFFCs. More >

A new model for regulatory system strengthening

A WHA resolution (67.20) in 2014 highlighted the importance of strengthening national regulatory systems for health products and technologies. In response to that, EMP is developing a network of centres of excellence to promote WHO Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs). These centres, once established, will provide guidance and training to regional partners. Two regulatory agencies have so far been identified as potential such centres - COFEPRIS in Mexico and BADANPOM in Indonesia.

As a further means of promoting efficiency in approach and better outcomes, EMP is in the process of forming a global coalition of development agencies and donors with the aim of coordinating regulatory system strengthening efforts. - with Bangladesh serving as the first country to pilot the initiative. More >

Developing health care guidelines in Estonia: a model for other countries

Estonia has created a cost-effective tool to develop guidelines to inform health care policy and practice. WHO hopes the tool can serve as a model for other countries aiming to improve the quality of their health services. More >

Coming soon
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>12 - 15 April 2016</td>
<td>62nd INN Consultation on International Nonproprietary Names (INN) for Pharmaceutical Substances</td>
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<tr>
<td>28–29 April 2016</td>
<td>13th WHO Advisory Committee on Safety of Medical Products (ACSoMP) meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>02-04 May 2016</td>
<td>Open-ended Meeting of WHO Member States: Follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination</td>
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**Download EMP brochure here**

[web: http://who.int/medicines]