5 February 2015

Policy, Access and Use
Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products
World Health Organization’s (WHO)
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear WHO Expert Committee

RE : Fixed Dose Combination Therapy in WHO Model List of Essential Medicines

I am writing to support the inclusion of fixed dose combination therapy (also known as “polypill” therapy) for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease in the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Model List of Essential Medicines. Many of the cardiologists in Asian Pacific Region have participated in various clinical trials on the above and the trial results have made us strongly believe in the above as one of the most effective treatment to tackle the number 1 disease burden in Asia Pacific which we can ill afford financially but also important strategies for the global cardiovascular disease prevention and control.

As you are aware, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of mortality in the world, with morbidity and mortality projected to increase significantly in the coming decades if current trends continue. To achieve maximum effect, treatments to reduce the burden and impact must be strategically developed and deployed to reach a broad and diverse population. A large body of evidence is available to support the use of pharmacological agents in treatment of cardiovascular disease and recent studies have shown the beneficial effect in secondary prevention.

Availability and use of fixed dose combination therapy for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease will overcome many of the barriers that currently prevent sufficient treatment, including poor adherence, unaffordable cost and inadequate prescription of medication. Different expert panels, including the WHO and the Combination Pharmacotherapy and Public Health Research Working Group, have recognized the potential value of fixed dose combination therapy for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease.
I agree with and support the recommendation to add fixed dose combination therapy to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease based on its relative affordability, availability, and effectiveness.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you.

Warmest regards always,

Right Honorable Prof Dr SIM Kui Hian
MBBS (Hons)(Monash), FRACP, FACC, FCSANZ, FAHA, FCAEPSC, FAPSIC, FSCAI, FAMM, FNHAM
President,
Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology
Past President
National Heart Association of Malaysia
Governor,
Malaysia Chapter of the ACC
Member of Senate,
Parliament of Malaysia