

Who's Who in the Microbicides Field– An Abbreviated Summary

Please note that this information has been compiled by the Global Campaign for Microbicides to help microbicide advocates develop increased familiarity with the field. It is by no means a complete listing of all entities involved in microbicide advocacy and research. Omissions have been made for the sake of brevity and carry no implication about the entities omitted. For more information, please contact: info@global-campaign.org

Some of the major entities involved in microbicide advocacy as of 2004

Alliance for Microbicide Development (www.microbicide.org)

The Alliance is a consortium working to advance the needs and interests of the people (scientists, small biotechs, nonprofit research groups) doing the hard work of developing and testing candidate microbicides. It does this by monitoring developments in the field, facilitating information exchange, collaborating in key advocacy activities, and convening policy dialogue on critical scientific and research issues. Through its interactive web site, product development databases, weekly bulletins, quarterly journal, annual meetings, and other information channels, the Alliance is a comprehensive, neutral resource for discussion, problem-solving, and information for microbicide developers, the wider microbicide community, and the general public.

Global Campaign for Microbicides (www.global-campaign.org)

The Global Campaign for Microbicides generates and unifies advocacy efforts to build support among opinion leaders, policymakers and the general public for increased investment in microbicides and other user-controlled HIV and STD prevention options. Through its 25 partner organizations and 170 endorsing groups, the Campaign equips advocates worldwide with a growing body of free resources, training and materials. Supported by Campaign sub-grants, affiliates in 10 US cities, Canada, India, South Africa, Uganda, Ireland and the UK work to catalyze local advocacy activities. Under the Campaign's umbrella, activists, NGOs and residents of clinical trial site communities are able to mobilize – as empowered civil society actors -- to accelerate microbicide development, plan for widespread access and protect the interests of end users throughout the research process.

International Family Health (www.ifh.org.uk)

International Family Health (IFH) is an international non-governmental organization in the United Kingdom dedicated to improving the sexual and reproductive health and rights of disadvantaged people in resource-poor settings. In a project funded by the European Community, the UK Department for International Development and the International Partnership for Microbicides, IFH is collaborating with the Global Campaign for Microbicides and other partners on efforts to raise awareness of microbicides among European donors, scientists, industry, and regulatory bodies; developing-country policymakers; and HIV/AIDS, women's health, international development, and other activist organizations in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

The International Partnership for Microbicides (www.ipm-microbicides.org)

The International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) serves as a “virtual pharmaceutical company,” to accelerate product development and testing through milestone-driven agreements with key collaborators. As a Public/Private Partnership, the IPM serves as a centralized mechanism for donors to invest in the field. The IPM also finances the development of infrastructure for conducting clinical trials, makes targeted investments to develop resources and technologies that will be shared with the entire field and advances an access agenda to assure that effective microbicides will be made accessible to women at highest risk in the poorest regions of the world as soon as possible.

Some of the major entities involved in microbicide research as of 2004

Family Health International (www.fhi.org)

FHI is among the largest international public health NGOs, managing research and field activities in more than 70 countries to meet the public health needs of some of the world's most vulnerable people. In addition to serving as the Coordinating and Operations Center for the HIV Prevention Trials Network (see below), FHI is also conducting a range of non-HPTN microbicide trials. These include a trial of cellulose sulfate (in collaboration with the Global Microbicides Project) in Nigeria, two trials of Savvy™ to occur in Ghana and Nigeria, and a pre-exposure prophylaxis study of Tenofovir (PMPA) in Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and Cambodia.

The Global Microbicides Project (www.gmp.org)

The GMP is a project of CONRAD (Contraceptive Research and Development), a program of the Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia, USA. The GMP was established with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to help develop new microbicidal agents that specifically address the needs and perspectives of women. It is now fielding clinical trials on three candidate microbicides; Acidform™; Cellulose Sulfate (Ushercell™) and Polystyrene Sulfonate.

HIV Prevention Trials Network (www.hptn.org)

The HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) is a worldwide collaborative clinical trials network that develops and tests the safety and efficacy of non-vaccine interventions designed to prevent the transmission of HIV. Established and funded by the US government, the HPTN supports the efforts of a network of expert scientists and investigators from more than two dozen international sites partnered with US-based institutions. The Microbicide Science Working Group of the HPTN is currently fielding seven clinical trials involving the following candidate microbicides; BufferGel™, PRO 2000/5™, Cellulose Sulfate (Ushercell™) and Tenofovir (PMPA). The HPTN is also working with other public health organizations involved in microbicide research to ensure a uniform approach to protocol development and design.

Microbicide Development Project (MDP) (www.mdp.mrc.ac.uk)

The Microbicides Development Programme (MDP) is a five-year research collaboration sponsored by the UK Department of International Development and administered by the Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit and Imperial College London. In collaboration with institutions in South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Cameroon, and Zambia, the MDP is fielding trials of two candidate microbicides, Dextrin-2- Sulfate (Emmelle™) and PRO-2000/5™. Additionally, the MDP aims to develop new products to enter safety studies in the UK and Africa.

The Population Council (www.popcouncil.org)

The Population Council is an international NGO with staff in eighteen developing countries, dedicated to improving the well-being and reproductive health of current and future generations around the world and to achieving a humane, equitable, and sustainable balance between people and resources. Its Contraceptive Development program has developed a candidate microbicide, Carraguard™, which is about to enter Phase 3 effectiveness trials in South Africa. The Population Council also administers and participates in the Rockefeller-funded Microbicides Basic Science Network, which consists of five outstanding scientists charged with working on different, but complementary, aspects of research to facilitate the development of microbicides.