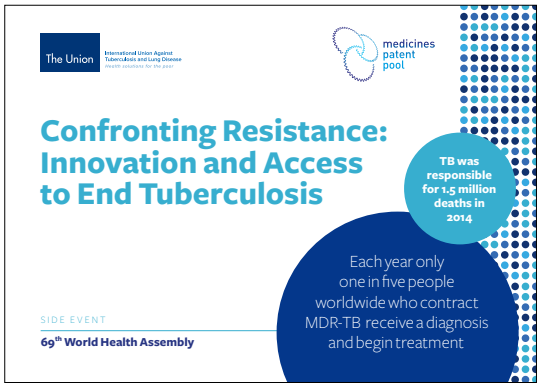
TB Alliance and the MPP signed a Memorandum of Understanding in April outlining a collaboration to encourage the development of new TB regimens.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two organisations will work together on a range of initiatives, including a comprehensive review of promising TB compounds in development and joint programmes to improve access to correctly dosed, properly formulated TB medicines for children. In addition, TB Alliance and the MPP will share patent status, sales data, epidemiological and other information as well as work in consultation with other public health organisations to develop TB drug market forecasts and intelligence.

> ***"With its strong track record in negotiating voluntary licences for HIV treatments, we believe the MPP can contribute significantly toward improving the international response to combatting TB in low- and middle-income countries."***
>
> **Mel Spigelman,** Chief Executive Officer of TB Alliance



World Health Assembly, May

At the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May, the MPP joined the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease in co-chairing a panel discussion on combatting growing resistance to TB treatment. The side event, co-organised by Unitaid, the Stop TB Partnership and the governments of France, the United States, Vietnam, the Republic of Korea and Zimbabwe, brought together leading voices in TB to discuss better approaches to developing shorter, more effective regimens. **Participants encouraged new approaches to incentivising industry to develop new tuberculosis interventions**. In the summer of 2016, the MPP opened negotiations with The Johns Hopkins University to license a promising new drug candidate for both drug-susceptible and drug-resistant TB.

THE MPP'S TUBERCULOSIS STEWARDSHIP STUDY

In 2016, the MPP conducted a study to examine how MPP licences could contribute to addressing some of the challenges in ensuring sustainable access to new TB drugs, specifically for multi-resistant TB. The report, based on input from private sector leaders, civil society, community-based organisations, product developers, academics and other experts, sought to inform the foundation's approach to negotiating licences for the manufacturing of TB compounds.

Findings acknowledged that the proper stewardship of new drugs must meet the twin public health goals of ensuring broad availability of new therapies while promoting their proper use to counter further resistance.

Recommendations included:

- Promoting quality standards by continuing to require that licensees comply with Good Manufacturing Practice as well as compliance with all applicable national laws and regulations;
- Retaining flexibility to permit incorporation of new learnings from the evolving field of antimicrobial stewardship;
- Refraining from overly-prescriptive requirements to ensure interest among sublicensees in developing TB compounds;
- Monitoring best practices in marketing and promotion through the MPP's Expression of Interest (EoI) process, requesting potential licensees to submit binding marketing plans in line with the WHO's Ethical Criteria for Medicinal Drug Promotion and with national laws;
- Collaborating closely with the Global Drug Facility (GDF) to ensure that the GDF's stewardship-related safeguards are adapted, as appropriate, for use in MPP licences;
- Working closely with National Treatment Programmes to ensure that licensed TB drugs are available in the private sector.

The report of this study can be downloaded from www.medicinespatentpool.org