

HIV Vaccines and Microbicides Resource Tracking Working Group



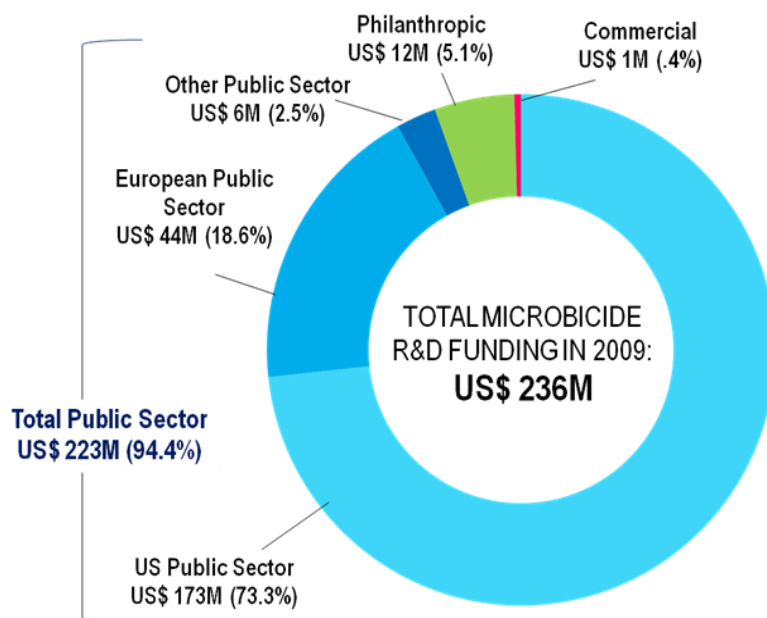
Funding for Microbicide R&D in 2009

The *HIV Vaccines and Microbicides Resource Tracking Working Group* uses a comprehensive methodology to track annual investment trends in HIV prevention research and development (R&D) that can be compared from year to year and across funders. In its most recent report, *Advancing the Science in a Time of Fiscal Constraint: Funding For HIV Prevention Technologies in 2009*, the Working Group took a look at microbicide R&D funding in the context of scientific advances in a declining economy.

Funding for Microbicide R&D

In 2009, total global investment in microbicide R&D was US\$236 million, a 3% decrease from 2008. This small decline came from lower philanthropic investment in 2009, and was the first year-to-year decline in microbicide funding since 2000. In 2009, the public sector accounted for 94% of the combined global funding for microbicide R&D. The US continued to maintain the largest presence, providing US\$173 million (73%). European governments and the European Commission together accounted for US\$44 million, an 11% increase from 2008.

In 2009, expenditures on microbicide R&D were allocated across seven categories: basic mechanisms of mucosal transmission (9%); discovery, development and preclinical testing (36%); formulations and modes of delivery (11%); clinical trials (34%); microbicide behavioral and social science research (4%); microbicide research infrastructure (4%); and policy and advocacy (2%).



The most significant contribution from the commercial sector comes in the form of non-exclusive royalty-free transfers of ARVs for use as active agents in microbicide development. From 2004 to 2009, IPM obtained non-exclusive royalty-free licenses for ARVs from Gilead Sciences (NRTI), Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Tibotec (NNRTI), Pfizer (CCR5 blocker), Merck & Co. (CCR5 blocker & gp41 binder), and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. (gp120 binder). CONRAD and the Population Council have also received material transfers and licenses for similar purposes, including licenses to develop ARVs as components of combination products.

Microbicide R&D Funding in a Time of Scientific Opportunity

This need for new prevention tools has fueled both the clinical testing of the first ARV-based microbicides and enrichment of the microbicide pipeline, which in turn have invigorated the field overall. Given the onset of a global recession beginning in 2008, a small decrease in microbicide funding can be seen as positive news. While the relative stability in funding is encouraging, it masks reasons for concern related to the structure of funding sources and the implications of level or “flat” funding. Chief among these concerns are that: 1) current funding levels do not adequately anticipate the costs of potential late-stage research; and 2) funding stability is concentrated in a few funders, specifically the National Institutes of Health and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Another cause for concern is that this stability reflects investments under current long-term commitments, which may or may not be renewed at present levels, and also fails to account for the decline in purchasing power as the cost of biomedical research continues to rise over time.

Please visit www.hivresourcetracking.org for a copy of the full report *Advancing the Science in a Time of Fiscal Constraint: Funding For HIV Prevention Technologies in 2009*. The *HIV Vaccines and Microbicides Resource Tracking Working Group* is composed of the AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention (AVAC), International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).