

## Funding for Microbicide R&D in 2010

The *HIV Vaccines and Microbicides Resource Tracking Working Group* uses a comprehensive methodology to track annual investment and analyse 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, *Capitalizing on Scientific Progress: Investment in HIV Prevention R&D in 2010*, the Working Group examines HIV microbicide R&D funding in the context of both recent scientific progress and the current economic environment.

### Funding for Microbicide R&D

Total global investment in microbicide R&D was US\$247 million in 2010, with the public sector providing US\$230 million (93%), the philanthropic sector providing US\$16 million (6%), and the commercial sector contributing US\$1 million (<1%).

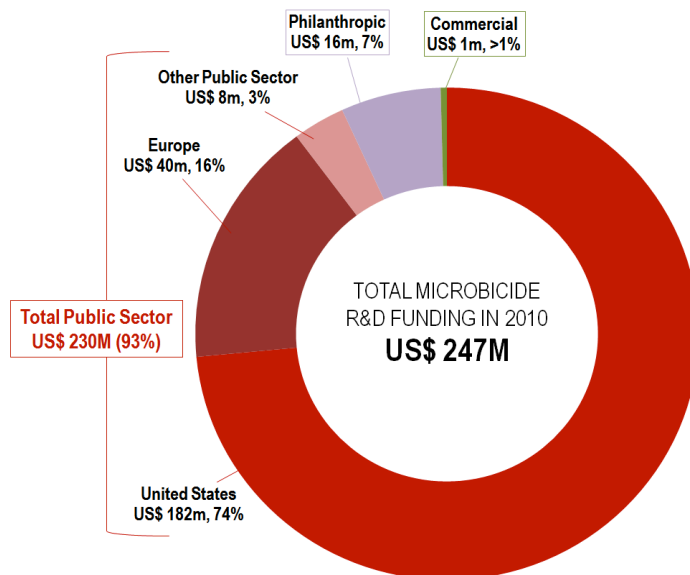
Four European public-sector funders decreased their contributions, resulting in a US\$4 million (9%) reduction in European contributions from 2009 levels. However, the US government increased its funding by US\$9 million (5%); the philanthropic sector, led by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), increased its funding by US\$9 million; and China, the European Commission (EC), and South Africa increased their 2010 funding, amounting to an overall increase of US\$11 million (5%) in microbicide R&D funding from 2009.

In 2010, expenditures on microbicide R&D were allocated across the following seven categories: basic mechanisms of mucosal transmission (18%), preclinical testing (25%), formulations and modes of delivery (5%), clinical trials (38%), behavioral and social science research (2%), research infrastructure (8%), and policy and advocacy (4%).

### Microbicide R&D Funding in a Time of Scientific Progress and Economic Uncertainty

Over the year since the historic CAPRISA 004 trial results were announced, the microbicide field has grappled with how to build on that promise, define the best next steps, and support them effectively and efficiently in a time of financial constraint and uncertainty. In June 2011, the South African and US governments announced full funding for the confirmatory multi-site “FACTS 001” trial scheduled for launch this summer by the Follow-on African Consortium for Tenofovir Studies (FACTS). Next in line is the IPM-developed monthly vaginal ring containing dapivirine, an ARV licensed from Tibotec/J&J. In 2012, the NIH-funded Microbicide Trials Network (MTN) will conduct an efficacy trial of the dapivirine ring in 4,000 participants in southern Africa, and IPM will conduct a parallel trial in 1,000 women in order to provide licensure-quality safety data. Finally, plans are proceeding to test the safety and acceptability of 1% TDF gel as a rectal microbicide.

The 2010 funding story for HIV prevention research overall was mixed. Funders, as a whole, can be commended for continuing their support for HIV prevention research in light of budget constraints triggered by the global recession in 2008. The scientific successes of the past two years testify to the importance of the flexible and sustainable funding that allows researchers to shift resources towards promising scientific developments as those appear. Thus, funding structures are required that are agile and generous enough to adapt rapidly to new opportunities, in both earlier translational research and later-phase clinical research. And now, just as positive clinical evidence and new scientific knowledge become increasingly available, the lack of long-term funding threatens to impede progress, most critically when the next and essential step is a late-stage confirmatory trial.



Please visit [www.hivresourcetracking.org](http://www.hivresourcetracking.org) for a copy of the full report, *Capitalizing on Scientific Progress: Investment in HIV Prevention R&D in 2010*. The *HIV Vaccines and Microbicides Resource Tracking Working Group* is composed of AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention (AVAC), and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).