Annual approvals for neglected diseases rose from 2.6 in 2000-08 to 5 in 2009-12

**HIV/AIDS and malaria drugs accounted for 60% of approvals in 2009-12**

- Annual R&D funding for neglected diseases grew rapidly from 2000 to 2007, but then leveled off at $3 billion.
- From 2009 to 2012, development of drugs to treat neglected diseases focused on the “Big Three” – HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.
- Public-private partnerships accounted for 50% of new product approvals in 2009-12, up from 46% in 2000-08.
- The research-based industry’s share of sponsorship of neglected disease drug development increased to 44% in 2009-12, from 36% in 2000-08.
- To help combat neglected diseases, more than a dozen large pharmaceutical firms have pledged to donate 14 billion drug treatments to patients over a 10-year period.

Growing global action to fight neglected diseases—by developing and distributing new drugs—appears to be bearing fruit. Last year, a group called Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases, comprised of drug sponsors and other organizations, issued the London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases, committed to helping achieve the goal of the World Health Organization (WHO) to control and eliminate 10 neglected diseases by 2020.

Tufts CSDD’s latest study tracking progress in drug development targeting neglected diseases, as well as patient access to existing products through donation programs, summarized in this *Tufts CSDD Impact Report*, found marked improvement in new approvals by global regulatory authorities as well as donations and donation pledges. However, annual funding for R&D targeting neglected diseases has stagnated at $3 billion, about the same as it was in 2007. Moreover, certain diseases, such as leprosy and trachoma, continue to be underfunded. While increased approvals may result in greater access to new medicines, policy makers need to ensure that safe, effective, and easy-to-administer products are adopted by health care systems, that they are affordable, and that they reach the people who need them.