

International Partnership for Microbicides; pioneering new HIV prevention technologies

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Counting on the progress

- Since IPM was founded as a nonprofit organization in 2002, it has leveraged public, philanthropic and private sector resources to spur the development of safe and effective life-saving technologies for women.

IPM's key achievements over the past 13 years include:

- Negotiating innovative mechanisms like royalty-free licenses and worldwide rights for antiretroviral (ARV) drugs. Since our inception, IPM has negotiated five non-exclusive, royalty-free licenses — and one exclusive worldwide rights agreement — from pharmaceutical companies to develop eight different ARVs as microbicides. These licenses ensure future IPM products will be affordable where the need is most urgent.

Counting on the progress

- Developing the monthly dapivirine ring and advancing it to Phase III efficacy trials. IPM developed a long-acting vaginal ring designed to deliver the ARV dapivirine continuously over the course of a month, which could offer women a practical and discreet way to protect themselves against HIV
- Conducting rigorous research studies; IPM has worked in 11 countries in Africa, Europe and North America to conduct more than 25 clinical trials to date on a variety of products as well as 13 incidence studies and two acceptability studies, all of which continue to inform our work and the field's.

Counting on the progress

- Strengthening medical research capacity in Africa. IPM has collaborated with in-country partners and research staff to build and strengthen capacity at more than 15 research centers across sub-Saharan Africa, and trained and developed the skills of more than 600 research center clinical staff, including community engagement teams on microbicide trial implementation.
- IPM staff members are well-equipped to conduct high-quality HIV prevention and related clinical trials

Counting on the progress

- Streamlining manufacturing processes. IPM led a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility to produce prototype gels and rings for early trials, resolving a manufacturing bottleneck and saving costs for over 10 clinical studies.
- Transferred dapivirine ring production for Phase III program to an external manufacturer to ensure cost-efficiencies for large-scale production and are evaluating options for post-trial access
- IPM is developing the first combination ARV vaginal ring, the dapivirine-maraviroc ring. Combining ARVs with different mechanisms of action may provide greater protection against HIV than a single drug alone.

Looking into the future

- Access to products where the need is urgent; IPM is collaborating with global, regional and national partners to plan for the potential roll-out, availability and affordability of the dapivirine ring to women in developing countries.
- IPM is also working with regulatory agencies in developing countries as well as the World Health Organization, the European Medicines Agency, and the US Food and Drug Administration to prepare for dapivirine ring licensure.
- IPM is developing a variety of products in novel formulations that advance the science of HIV prevention and expand women's options.
- These include the 90-day contraceptive-dapivirine ring as well as single ARV and combination ARV rings, films and tablets with ARVs that have different mechanisms of action.