



To: Access to Rights and Knowledge Foundation (ARK), India
DR-TB Scale-up Treatment Action Team (DR-TB STAT), Global
Global TB Community Advisory Board (TB CAB), Global
Nagaland Users' Network (NUN), India

October 10, 2016

RE: OPEN LETTER RE: Requests to improve affordability and availability of delamanid

Thank you for your letter dated 19 September 2016. Otsuka shares the same goal of improving delamanid's affordability and availability in a responsible and sustainable way. This means ensuring that the roll out of new TB drugs preserves antimicrobial stewardship and does not risk increased resistance to these new drugs as agreed upon by member states at the recent UN General Assembly. Additionally, the roll out must not discourage additional private actors to invest in this neglected disease area. After many private companies have closed down their TB research units over the past few years, Otsuka is proud to be one of a very small minority of pharmaceutical companies with a robust TB research and development (R&D) pipeline, of which we will be making major announcements at the forthcoming 2016 Union World Conference on Lung Health.

The international TB community and activist organizations have consistently stated that donations are not a sustainable strategy for long-term investment in TB and we agree. While we continue research and development into new tools to manage TB, we are prioritizing efforts to ensure access to delamanid in high burden countries, establish effective partnerships, and invest in new manufacturing processes that would allow us to improve the production efficiency of delamanid.



However, experience in the field has shown the global TB community that crucial barriers to access still remain. We have seen that despite the availability of new TB drugs, of funding, of guidance and technical assistance, the uptake of new TB drugs has been very slow. Patients desperately need the support of the global TB community to identify and target these persisting barriers in the health care system in order to improve uptake.

The faster we can work together as a community, the faster we will be able to reach our shared goals. We look forward to further discussing these important issues with you in person, including providing an update of our global access efforts, at the upcoming Union World Conference on Lung Health in Liverpool, UK.

Kind regards,

Dr. Rajesh Gupta
Senior Director, Global Health Projects

Cc/ Mr. Marc Destito, Communications Director, Global Health Projects