Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
P.O. Box 4000 Princeton, NJ 08543-4000 609 252-4000

April 22, 2013

Mr. Peter Maybarduk
Global Access to Medicines Program, Director
Public Citizen
1600 20th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Maybarduk,

On behalf of Bristol-Myers Squibb, I would like to thank you for your letter sent to our CEO, Mr. Lamberto Andreotti, on April 2 in reference to the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP). Bristol-Myers Squibb's work in HIV/AIDS spans more than two decades and includes the development of Videx® (didanosine), Zerit® (stavudine) and Reyataz® (atazanavir sulfate). Bristol-Myers Squibb has implemented innovative solutions to create improved access to these drugs in the developing world, and remains committed to exploring new mechanisms which can complement these efforts.

As indicated on the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) website, Bristol-Myers Squibb is engaged in negotiations with the MPP. Through these discussions, we are assessing whether our potential participation would complement our existing HIV Access Program and help enable access to affordable HIV medicines in developing countries in a systematic way. We continue to make progress on these negotiations and will communicate the terms of potential participation at the appropriate time.

Bristol-Myers Squibb's HIV Access Program was started in 2001 and through this program, the company has sought to increase access to our HIV/AIDS medicines in sub-Saharan Africa and most low-income countries, where the HIV/AIDS pandemic has hit the hardest and where resources to address the issue are the most limited. Since 2001, Bristol-Myers Squibb has provided its HIV/AIDS medicines at prices which reflect no profit to the company. In 2005, the company made the decision to further reduce the price of pediatric formulations of our HIV/AIDS medicines from no-profit to significantly below cost in an effort to further access to treatment for pediatric patients. In addition, the company has entered into over ten Immunity from Suit agreements covering didanosine and stavudine and four agreements covering atazanavir with Africa- and India-based generic manufacturers. Through these agreements, a number of the generic manufacturers have successfully obtained WHO prequalification and/or FDA tentative approvals through the PEPFAR program, and in some instances, created fixed-dose combinations with compounds from other innovator companies.

Bristol-Myers Squibb is committed to discovering, developing and delivering innovative medicines. Consistent with this mission, we have a longstanding commitment to increasing access to HIV medicines in resource-limited settings and exploring ways to enhance the impact of our efforts in this area. Thank you again for your letter.

Kind regards,

Sunil R Patel

Sunil Patel
Director, Global & Corporate Policy
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company