

**Imperial College Union Access to Medicines Policy**  
**Proposed by Kush Naker, seconded by Harriet Gliddon**

**Imperial College Union notes**

- That 10 million people die every year from treatable diseases and one third of the world's population lack access to essential medicines.
- That only 10% of research funding is spent on the health problems affecting 90% of the world's population; the neglected diseases.
- Universities are an important source of new medicines and drug targets.
- Industry is increasingly turning to academia for new drug targets.
- Imperial College London develops and patents many healthcare-related technologies, which are licensed to members of the pharmaceutical industry for development.
- That universities have had important roles in increasing access to essential medicines in the part by implementing global access licensing
- Many universities are now implementing global access licensing policies, including Oxford, Harvard and Yale, and have not seen a negative impact on licensing or profits.
- Generic pharmaceutical production has been shown to be the most effective way of ensuring access by driving down prices as a result of competition<sup>1</sup>.
- That technology transfer offices (TTOs) are in a privileged position in having exclusive access to the intellectual property of a university.

**Imperial College Union believes**

- The products of publicly funded research should be made available to all members of societies.
- That research value should be measured on the impact it makes on society.
- That Imperial College students should be encouraged to learn about and consider a research career in the field of neglected diseases.

**Imperial College Union resolves**

- To actively campaign for Imperial College London to sign onto the global access licensing framework as published by the international student-led organisation Universities Allied for Essential Medicines under the guidance of various experts.
- To support inclusion of neglected diseases topics on all relevant course curriculums, particularly those in the Department of Life Sciences and Faculty of Medicine and to encourage UROP projects on NTDs.

---

<sup>1</sup> Report to Congress by the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator on the Use of Generic Drugs in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.  
[www.pepfar.gov/documents/organization/105842.pdf](http://www.pepfar.gov/documents/organization/105842.pdf)