

# Roche in HIV:



## Africa Focus

**Roche is involved in programmes and initiatives across sub-Saharan Africa as part of its ongoing commitment to increase access to HIV healthcare. A number of treatment programmes have been established, which aim to deliver improvements in access to HIV/AIDS care in a sustainable manner.**

### **Pilot study models sustainable ARV treatment across Africa**

Last year yielded encouraging results from a unique access initiative involving HIV centres in four African countries – Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Senegal and Uganda.

The Cohort programme to evaluate Access to antiretroviral treatment and Education, known as CARE, was launched in February 2001. Preliminary (24 week) data from the study showed that it is possible to administer highly active antiretroviral treatment (HAART) in these countries and achieve treatment success rates at a similar level to those achieved in a western setting.<sup>1</sup>

Roche partnered with PharmAccess Foundation, an organisation that is active in many African countries, to develop a programme to provide sustained access to care and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. It aims to serve as a model for sustainable HIV healthcare in resource-limited regions across the world, focusing on the development of local medical infrastructure and training of African healthcare professionals in these countries and beyond.

The centres provide HIV diagnostic and monitoring tests, training for healthcare professionals and education for patients. To date, 207 antiretroviral-naïve patients have enrolled and received a treatment regimen of protease inhibitors (PI), boosted Inivirase (saquinavir/ritonavir) in combination with two nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), 3TC (lamivudine) and AZT (zidovudine).

### **...innovative sub-study reinforces benefit of PK data**

As part of the CARE programme, a substudy was conducted to assess the efficacy of this PI based regime. Although research has highlighted environmental, behavioural and genomic differences between patients in Africa and their western counterparts, few studies had assessed the disposition of ARV drugs in these populations, and reliable pharmacokinetic (PK) data is limited.

The CARE PK data demonstrated that boosted Inivirase was the saquinavir formulation (SQV) of choice, with a lower inter-patient variability and greater tolerability than other SQV medicines. In an environment where problems such as refrigeration have to be overcome, the results also confirmed that Inivirase is easier to use than other SQV medicines.<sup>2</sup>

As the use of PI-based HIV treatment in sub-Saharan Africa increases over the coming years, as a result of the World Health Organization's recommendation for use as a second line treatment, there is an ever increasing need to conduct PK studies and provide data that will help to ensure the best possible treatment outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Roche has produced a DVD to capture the key learnings from the CARE programme, following the third CARE meeting which took place in Dakar, Senegal, in 2004. Designed as a training tool for healthcare professionals throughout Africa and other resource-limited settings, the DVD includes an update on the CARE programme, as well as presentations covering the quality and impact of access programmes, HIV/AIDS treatment, pharmacological and clinical topics.



**The CARE programme provides care and treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS in four countries across Africa**



**Roche is involved in many initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa to deliver improvements in access to HIV/AIDS care**

If you would like further information regarding the CARE programme or would be interested in receiving a DVD, please follow the mailing instructions below and we would be delighted to send you a copy.

### **Requesting a CARE DVD**

Please send an email to Anne Raphaele Grava at Roche Basel:

**anne-raphaele.grava@roche.com** with

1. Your requested number of copies
2. Address for delivery

**Important** Please include a **street name** in delivery address (and not a P.O. Box number alone) plus your telephone number to ensure your delivery arrives safely.

*We look forward to hearing from you.*

**“The CARE programme has given us vital learnings and outputs, which will not only benefit those involved in the initiative, but all people with HIV/AIDS living in resource-poor settings.” Professor Papa Salif Sow, study investigator from Senegal.**

## **Roche supports AIDS Treatment Information Centre**

The AIDS Treatment Information Centre (ATIC), a project supported by Roche, was established to support the rollout of antiretroviral drugs in Africa. ATIC, the first centre of its kind in Africa, is a collaboration between the Infectious Diseases Institute and the Institute of Public Health within the Mulago Hospital Complex in Kampala, Uganda.

ATIC provides on-demand and up-to-date information on HIV/AIDS care and treatment to healthcare providers, and has received queries from countries across Africa and beyond on a variety of issues including drug interactions, switching of therapy, and resistance.



**ATIC provides a continuous source of information to over 2,000 healthcare professionals across Africa**



**Roche is committed to increasing access to HIV care across the world**

Relevant information is provided through a free call-in centre, a newsletter and website. By calling +256-31-307245/307228 or +256-41-307245/228, HIV health workers are able to get free information from HIV clinical pharmacists, physicians and public health workers.

A quarterly newsletter, *ATIC News*, runs articles on subjects including biomedical research, drug information, and on the field experiences, among many other issues.

The ATIC website ([www.atic-africa.org](http://www.atic-africa.org)) contains detailed HIV/AIDS information and useful links to other websites including the Liverpool University Drug Interaction and Stanford University Drug Resistance Sites.

To receive a free copy of the quarterly newsletter, *ATIC News* or if you have any queries, please email [contact@atic.idi.co.ug](mailto:contact@atic.idi.co.ug) or [queries@atic.idi.co.ug](mailto:queries@atic.idi.co.ug).

Roche is committed to improving health across the world, and is a founding partner of the Accelerating Access Initiative established to increase access to HIV care in the world's poorest countries.

### **Further information**

If you would like further information regarding Roche policies and initiatives please email [info.makingadifference@roche.com](mailto:info.makingadifference@roche.com).

If you have any enquiries regarding the purchase of Roche antiretroviral medicines please visit <http://www.roche-hiv.com> for details or email Hanspeter Wälchli, Logistic Sales International Customers, at [hanspeter.waelchli@roche.com](mailto:hanspeter.waelchli@roche.com).

### **Roche policies ‘at a glance’**

- No patents for any of Roche's medicines – across all disease areas – will be filed in the Least Developed Countries<sup>3</sup> as defined by the United Nations
- Roche will not file patents on new or investigational HIV/AIDS medications in Least Developed Countries or in sub-Saharan Africa and will not act against infringement of patents Roche holds on HIV/AIDS medicines in these countries
- Roche will not take action against sale or manufacture of generic versions of its HIV/AIDS medicines for which Roche holds patents in Least Developed Countries and sub-Saharan Africa. Generic versions of such HIV medicines can therefore be produced without the need for a voluntary or compulsory license in these countries
- Roche holds no patents for Roche malaria treatments – Fansidar (sulfadoxine/pyrimethamine) and Lariam (mefloquine) – in Least Developed Countries and sub-Saharan Africa
- Roche makes its HIV protease inhibitors – Invirase (saquinavir) and Viracept (nelfinavir) available at no profit prices for countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Least Developed Countries. These prices are available for direct supply from Roche Head Quarters in Basel, Switzerland. This means that additional costs for freight, import, duty, taxes, distribution and inventory need to be added. The retail prices within these countries will therefore be higher and may vary substantially

A comprehensive list of prices, countries and conditions are available on [www.roche-hiv.com](http://www.roche-hiv.com). The minimum order of 10,000 CHF remains. The prices are ex-factory prices from Roche's headquarters in Basel Switzerland.

**Roche's patent and no profit pricing policies are focused on countries hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic with the fewest resources. They apply to approximately two thirds of all people living with HIV/AIDS in the world.**

1 Salif Sow P, Schillevoort I, Kityo C, Bissagnene E, Otieno CE, Waalberg E, Lange JM. Implementing antiretroviral treatment in resource-limited settings: clinical results from four African countries on behalf of CARE project team Abstract number ThPeB7158 XV International AIDS Conference (IAC) Bangkok, Thailand, 11–16 July 2004

2 Coakley P, Merry C, Kityo C, Ryan M, Dickinson L, Gibbons S, et al. The pharmacokinetics (PK) of saquinavir and ritonavir in Ugandan patients receiving ritonavir boosted saquinavir hard gel and soft gel. Presented at 7th International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection, Glasgow, UK 14–18 November 2004

3 As defined by the United Nations. <http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrlls/lde/list.htm>

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