

Progressing NCEs through clinical development for the treatment of neglected tropical diseases

Introduction

Effective treatment of neglected diseases, especially those resulting from kinetoplastid infections (Chagas disease, sleeping sickness and leishmaniasis) is hampered by outdated, often toxic drugs that impose heavy burdens of health systems. As a result, these diseases continue to affect millions across the world, often the poorest among the poor. New treatments are sorely needed to support sustainable control or elimination of these diseases.

Materials & Methods

Building the future of novel and effective treatments for neglected diseases includes progressing promising New Chemical Entities (NCEs) through the development pipeline, by accessing new chemical libraries or compounds and developing strong lead optimization consortia. Successful advancement of new leads and optimized leads in the discovery and pre-clinical phases is key to building a robust pipeline for the coming years, whilst taking into account the realities of the field is essential when progressing candidates from the pre-clinical to the clinical phase.

Results

Since its inception in 2003, DNDi and partners have delivered six new treatments for malaria, sleeping sickness, visceral leishmaniasis, and Chagas disease. At the same time, by establishing fruitful collaborations with a variety of partners from the pharmaceutical industry, biotechs, academia and other PDPs, as well as disease-endemic countries, DNDi has established a strong portfolio, with 11 NCEs at various stages of development, to treat kinetoplastid diseases, as well as specific helminth infections and paediatric HIV.

Main Conclusions

This session aims to give an overview of the realities of developing new drugs for the treatment of neglected tropical diseases, and to present DNDi's model of progressing NCEs through the development pipeline, with a focus on the main element of success, strong partnerships.