Technologies (IMPT): Building the Movement

The Initiative for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (IMPT) is an innovative class of sexual and reproductive health products that deliver HIV prevention, other STI prevention, and contraception in varied combinations. Condoms are the only currently available option to prevent the simultaneous risks of HIV, other STIs, and unintended pregnancy. While condoms are important, they are not enough. Women need more options that suit the diverse circumstances of their daily lives.

There are nearly a dozen MPTs in clinical trials, with many other innovative technologies in earlier stages of development, including:

- Longer active vaginal rings
- Fast dissolving films and inserts
- Innovative gels
- Injectable that combine contraception & infection prevention

Effective, affordable, and widely available MPTs would save lives and improve the health of women and their families across the globe.

** METHODS **

The IMPT is comprised of product developers, researchers, advocates, and funders from across disciplines and over 15 countries worldwide. This committed collaboration has supported the growth of the MPT field through an iterative process of identifying the most pressing field-wide challenges and gaps, coordinating expert convenings to accelerate action around these issues, developing related guidance and tools, and fostering multi-sector collaborations. In 2015, the IMPT implemented a survey within its network (n=43) to identify the priority areas for follow-up action necessary to advance the field.

** RESULTS **

Five priority issues were identified for follow-up action through 2017:

1) Assessing the gaps in social-behavioural knowledge for MPT development and MPT commercialization potential;
2) Understanding hormonal contraceptive (HC) knowledge gaps in the context of MPT development;
3) Assessing challenges and other issues related to MPT clinical trial design;
4) Developing a process for achieving a more robust product development pathway for non-HIV STI MPTs; and
5) Engaging in modelling efforts to robustly assess public health impact and cost effectiveness of MPT product options in specific target populations.

The IMPT is accelerating action around these issues, including developing a market access and technical resource, think-tank meetings to strategize around HC in MPT challenges, and planning for a clinical evaluation and trial design convening.

** CONCLUSION **

The strength of the IMPT hinges upon the collective expertise of its global network. The IMPT is well-equipped to continue its coordination of the MPT field as the field continues to grow and evolve, working to foster a world where women and girls have the prevention tools they need to lead full, healthy lives.

The Initiative for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (IMPT) advances the development of MPTs to address the interlinked risks of unintended pregnancy and STIs, including HIV, believing that the availability of desirable methods that deliver an array of prevention combinations will improve the lives of women and their families worldwide. Established in 2009, the IMPT leverages the multidisciplinary expertise of its diverse network, and accelerates action around priority technical gaps and challenges to advance the science to support the development of MPTs and their successful introduction into target populations with high unmet need.

** Family Planning New South Wales **

Family Planning New South Wales is the state’s leading provider of reproductive and sexual health services to people across New South Wales. As an independent, not for profit organization founded in 1926 it also provides evidence-based training and education to a range of health professionals, teachers and community workers and carries out clinical and population-based research. Family Planning NSW has partnerships with organizations in the Pacific region to support the sustainable provision of reproductive and sexual health services including cervical cancer prevention.

Support for this work was provided by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of Cooperative Agreement AID-OAA-A-16-00045. The contents of this poster are the responsibility of the IMPT and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government. For questions or comments, please contact: IMPT@camix-health.org. The IMPT is a project of CAMIX Health, an organization dedicated women’s reproductive health and empowerment based in Folsom, CA, USA. CAMIX Health is housed at PHI.

To learn more about MPTs and the IMPT, visit [www.MPTs101.org](http://www.MPTs101.org) and [www.theIMPT.org](http://www.theIMPT.org)