IMPT Joint Steering Committee and Supporting Agency Collaboration Committee (SACC) Meeting Executive Summary
Washington, D.C., USA
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The Initiative for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (IMPT) is a global collaborative partnership with the aim of advancing the development and introduction of products that simultaneously address multiple sexual and reproductive health needs, namely unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV. Established in 2009, the IMPT has engaged product developers, scientific researchers, health care providers, funders and community-based advocates in Africa, China, India, the United States, and Western Europe behind this common agenda. The mission of the IMPT is to advance the development of MPTs and to support their successful introduction into target populations with high unmet need.

Multipurpose prevention technologies (MPTs) for reproductive health are products that combine protection against unintended pregnancy and STIs, including HIV. The vision for MPTs is a suite of accessible products that are woman-initiated, efficient, and easy to use. Safe and effective MPTs that are acceptable, affordable, and made widely available would greatly improve health and save resources across the globe.

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CAMI Health is a project of the Public Health Institute in Oakland, CA, USA.
Background

Founded in 2009, the Initiative for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (IMPT) is an international and interdisciplinary collaboration committed to strategically moving forward the emerging field of multipurpose prevention technologies (MPTs), which simultaneously address the multiple sexual and reproductive health needs of women. Over the past six years, IMPT has supported the growth of the MPT field through an iterative process of convening technical experts around critical technical challenges and other field-wide issues, identifying and prioritizing MPT field-wide scientific issues and challenges, and providing a platform that can help guide MPT product development and investment decisions. Overall, the IMPT has sought to inform, support, and encourage MPT product development in a way that makes efficient use of limited resources and ensures that MPTs are not only efficacious in clinical trials, but also desired, acceptable, and accessible to women and girls. CAMI Health, a project of the Public Health Institute, has served as Secretariat and neutral convener of the IMPT since its founding.

The work of the IMPT is overseen by a Steering Committee and carried out through implementing mechanisms including the Secretariat, working groups, and advisory committees. In response to recommendations from the IMPT Steering Committee, an MPT Supporting Agency Collaboration Committee (SACC) was created in 2014 in order to lead the complex effort of fostering a funding environment that avoids duplication of efforts and addresses field-wide gaps and challenges. With international representation from an array of government agencies, multilateral international organizations, and private foundations, the SACC provides guidance to the field in deploying limited resources.

In June 2015, over 25 members of the Steering Committee and SACC convened in a joint, half-day meeting to strategize around current challenges and next steps for the field. The meeting focused on two central issues: the status of CAMI Health and the IMPT in relation to impending funding gaps; and building and sustaining momentum around issues critical to MPT development. This Executive Summary outlines key outcomes from the group’s discussion and summarizes next step for the Initiative.

The Status of CAMI Health and the IMPT

Key Outcomes

Following a discussion of CAMI Health’s critical role in coordinating the IMPT, current funding gaps, and a proposed Global MPT Funding Optimization and Enhancement Strategy, the group reached a consensus around the following key issues and next steps:

- The group agreed that there needs to be more clarity around the IMPT’s identity and organizational structure, specifically around CAMI Health’s role as Secretariat. Moving forward CAMI Health’s activities relevant to the IMPT will be referred to as ‘IMPT Secretariat staff’, and a transition strategy will be created to streamline this rebranding process.

- In the same vein, the group stressed the importance of clearly articulating the IMPT Secretariat’s role in moving the field forward.

- The group reached a consensus around reinvigorating the IMPT’s efforts in funder engagement specifically in framing MPTs around the central interests of targeted funders.
In addition, group agreed to explore the engagement of high-net-worth individuals as a new approach to funding optimization.

Members of the Steering Committee and SACC were also urged to prioritize action around ensuring the sustainability of the Initiative and enhancing funding support to IMPT prioritized activities through inclusion of the IMPT in funding proposals, introductions to prospective funders, and coordination with IMPT Secretariat.

Building & Sustaining Momentum: IMPT Activities Moving Forward

Key Outcomes

Following a discussion of recently identified priority issues and a proposed MPT Field-wide Investment Guide to address these gaps, the group reached a consensus around the following key issues and next steps:

- Members of the Steering Committee and SACC approved the strategic priorities identified through the prioritization exercise.

- The group provided valuable feedback on improving the functionality and accessibility of the MPT Field-wide Investment Guide, which Secretariat staff will use as guidance in the development of the Guide moving forward.

- In addition, the group discussed engaging with relevant professional organizations for further funding opportunities. Secretariat staff will explore this idea further with members of the Steering Committee and SACC.

Looking Ahead

As the MPT field continues to grow and evolve, the central leadership of the IMPT will be crucial in advancing effective products that meet the diverse needs and preferences of women around the world. Without the IMPT, the field would lack a product-neutral voice to address field-wide challenges and facilitate the exchange of information. The collaboration of the IMPT’s diverse stakeholders will ensure that MPTs are effective, acceptable, and accessible to the women who need them most. While the funding situation for the field is challenging, the Initiative’s cross-disciplinary expertise means we are well-poised to build a more sustainable future.

The insights that emerged from this meeting will be invaluable as the IMPT moves forward in implementing the Funding Optimization Strategy. Meeting participants highlighted approaches that will improve IMPT messaging and engagement with prospective funders. With input from a variety of perspectives, the MPT Field-wide Investment Guide will provide a useful tool for strategic investment.

Finally, in response to the need to better clarify the organizational structure of the initiative to potential funders and stakeholders, moving forward, the Initiative for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (IMPT) will be the ‘face’ of the Initiative and CAMI Health’s activities relevant to the IMPT will be referred to as ‘IMPT Secretariat staff’.
List of Participants

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* indicates those who participated via teleconference
List of Acronyms (in alphabetical order)

ARHP   Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
HIV    Human immunodeficiency virus
IMPT   Initiative for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies
KEMRI  Kenya Medical Research Institute
MPTs   Multipurpose Prevention Technologies
NIAID  National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
NICHD  Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
NIH OAR National Institutes of Health Office of AIDS Research
NIMH   National Institute of Mental Health
PHI    Public Health Institute
SACC   Supporting Agency Collaboration Committee
STI    Sexually transmitted infection
UNFPA  United Nations Population Fund
USAID  United States Agency for International Development
The Initiative for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (IMPT) is a project of CAMI Health, an organization dedicated to women’s reproductive health and empowerment, housed at the Public Health Institute (PHI).