

20 January 2011

TO: Dr. Mihaly Kökény, Chairman, WHO Executive Board

CC: Dr. Paulo Buss, Vice-Chairman, WHO Executive Board

The undersigned organizations oppose the appointment of Novartis executive Dr Paul Herrling to the new WHO Consultative Expert Working Group (CEWG) on R&D Financing. In collaboration with Novartis and the industry trade association IFPMA, Dr Herrling is the author of the Fund for R&D in Neglected Diseases (FRIND) proposal. Dr. Herrling is also the co-author of the PDP Plus proposal. The CEWG is expected to evaluate the FRIND and the PDP Plus proposals. The appointment of Dr. Herrling creates a conflict of interest. We note that a conflict of interest may exist even if no unethical or improper act results from it, and also that both actual and perceived conflicts of interest can undermine the reputation and work of the CEWG.

Sincerely,

CIDEPRO

Déclaration de Berne - Berne Declaration

HAI Europe

HAI Global

Health GAP (Global Access Project)

Knowledge Ecology International

Médecins Sans Frontières, Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines

Oxfam International

Third World Network