



INVITATION EVENT 'HEALTH FOR SALE'

Dutch Leadership on Access to Affordable Medicines and Innovation

February 5th 2016 | 7AM, Buitenhof 47, The Hague | 1:30pm - 5:30pm

Please join our event **Health for Sale**, organised by Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM), Aids Fonds, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) and Health Action International (HAI).

During this event we will discuss challenges regarding **affordable access to medicines** -globally as well as in Europe- and the lack of **needs-driven innovation** by the current pharmaceutical research and development (R&D) model. Subsequently we will jointly investigate solutions to the gaps and inaccuracies of this system and think of **alternative models** for biomedical R&D that promote **knowledge-sharing**.

Please find the day program and more information below. To register for this event, contact Anne Dankert at healthforsale@aidsfonds.nl.

Program

- 13.00 – 13.30 Arrival and registration
- 13.30 – 13.40 Introduction by **Salmaan Sana**, facilitator of the day
- 13.45 – 14.45 Panel A "Diagnosing the problem of the current R&D model"
- Introduction: A perspective on the lack of affordable access and innovation by **James Love**, *Director of Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)*
- **Marietje Schaake**, *Member of European Parliament- ALDE/D66*
 - **Rohit Malpani**, *Director Policy and Analysis at MSF*
 - **Judith Sargentini**, *Member of European Parliament - Greens/GroenLinks*
 - **Júlia Montaña López**, *UAEM*
- Q&A
- 14.45 – 15.00 Coffee Break
- 15.00 – 15.30 **Breakout sessions:** 'Pitches of innovation'
1. WHO CEWG process as unique opportunity - by **Sophie Bloemen**, *DNDi* & **Merle Schene**, *UAEM*
Respondent: **Carlos Passerelli**, UNAIDS
 2. 3P Tuberculosis Proposal as example - by **Rohit Malpani**, *MSF*
Respondent: **TBC**
 3. Access through TRIPS flexibilities - by **Jorrit Kabel**, *Aids Fonds*
Respondent: **TBC**

15.30 – 16.30

Panel B: “How do we fix this?”

Introduction: ‘New models of innovation – Principles and alternatives’ by

David Hammerstein, *Co-Director Commons Network*

- **James Love**, *Director of Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)*
- **Linda Voortman**, *Member of the Dutch Parliament GroenLinks*
- **Frank Cobelens**, *Director of Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD)*
- **Jan Raaimakers**, *Ministry of Economic Affairs, Life Sciences and Health*

Q&A

16.30 – 16.45

Wrap up

16.45 – 17.30

Drinks

Please spread the word: #HealthForSale

Background

Lack of access and affordability of life-saving medicines is a severe threat for millions of people worldwide. Policy makers are forced to make decisions on rationing and are engaged in negotiations with pharmaceutical companies, as health budgets can no longer cover the costs of extremely high-priced medicines. In the Netherlands, patients with a thyroid disease were recently confronted by a temporary stop in the supply of their daily medication. Also the news of shortage of antibiotics in the Netherlands which might cause antibiotic resistance recently made the newspapers headlines. Many low- and middle-income countries face serious problems of the same kind. The sustainability

of our current intellectual property and monopoly driven biomedical innovation model is under increasing scrutiny.

The last few years rising prices for medicines and treatments for life-threatening diseases such as cancer and Hepatitis C have fueled political debate. The sustainable affordability of medicines is now a political priority in many European countries. Yet the political discussion on cost regulation and the manner in which the pharmaceutical industry is rewarded is still based on the existing research and development (R&D) model and does not challenge the model as such. It lacks a proper discussion and vision on alternative suitable models. There is a need to challenge the status quo and seriously consider new and sustainable global models that stimulate R&D *and* will lead to the development of affordable needed medicines.

The first half of 2016, when the Netherlands holds the position of presidency of the EU Council, provides a unique momentum to discuss the issue of access and affordability of medicines. We ask the Dutch government to take public leadership during its EU presidency and make use of the window of opportunity to move policy towards more transparency, knowledge sharing and affordable R&D, with regards to national decision-making, EU affairs and global discussions at the World Health Organisation and other relevant platforms.

Aids Fonds	www.aidsfonds.nl
Doctors without Borders (MSF)	www.msf.org
Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi)	http://www.dndi.org/
Health Action International (HAI)	http://haiweb.org/
KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV)	https://www.kncvtbc.org/
Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM)	http://uaem.org/