

## **Medicines Development for Global Health Named to Fast Company's Annual List of the World's Most Innovative Companies for 2019**

Melbourne, Australia (February 21, 2019) – Medicines Development for Global Health (MDGH) has been named to *Fast Company's* prestigious annual list of the World's Most Innovative Companies for 2019. The list honors the businesses making the most profound impact on both industry and culture.

Mark Sullivan, Founder and Managing Director of MDGH, said, "We are honored to receive this global recognition of our work and are humbled to be named alongside such an extraordinary group of innovative companies." He added, "Our driver is to address health inequity. Very few interventions can be as impactful as a medicine to treat or prevent a disease, and our vision is to make new and improved medicines available for neglected diseases, no matter where they occur. We believe that access to medicines should not be determined by ability to pay."

In June 2018, MDGH received United States Food & Drug Administration approval for moxidectin, the first new treatment for river blindness (onchocerciasis) in more than 20 years. River blindness is a debilitating condition that affects more than 16 million people in sub-Saharan Africa and threatens over 100 million. It is caused by a worm parasite (*Onchocerca volvulus*) transmitted through the bite of a black fly and causes severe itching, disfiguring skin conditions, and visual impairment, including permanent blindness. Moxidectin has been shown to be more effective than the current treatment against the larvae (microfilariae) that cause the symptoms of the disease, and also result in the onward spread of the disease. Experts believe moxidectin could play an important role in accelerating the time to elimination of onchocerciasis.

MDGH is one of the first not-for-profit biopharmaceutical companies to be established, founded from the observation that one of the primary reasons affected communities are underserved is that there is a market failure in funding the development work and cost of treatments. Concurrent with FDA approval,

MDGH was awarded a Priority Review Voucher, a saleable asset that permits the holder to accelerate the review of a New Drug Application (NDA) from the standard 10 months to 6 months. Once this is sold, MDGH will use its funding to expand access to moxidectin for affected communities in sub-Saharan Africa, which is where more than 99% of those with river blindness live.

MDGH is also investigating the potential for moxidectin as a treatment for 4 other neglected diseases that affect more than 1 billion people, including scabies, several types of intestinal worm infections, and elephantiasis.

This year, *Fast Company's* editors and writers sought out groundbreaking businesses across 35 industries and every region. They also judged nominations received through their application process.

The World's Most Innovative Companies is *Fast Company's* signature franchise and one of its most highly anticipated editorial efforts of the year. It provides both a snapshot and a road map for the future of innovation across the most dynamic sectors of the economy.

*Fast Company's* **Most Innovative Companies** issue (March-April 2019) is now available online at <https://www.fastcompany.com/MIC> as well as in app form via iTunes and on newsstands beginning February 27th. The hashtag is #fcmostinnovative.

#### **ABOUT MEDICINES DEVELOPMENT FOR GLOBAL HEALTH**

MDGH is a biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Melbourne, Australia. Established in 2005, this unique organization is dedicated to addressing health inequity through the development of affordable medicines and vaccines for neglected diseases prevalent in low- and middle-income countries. MDGH is a not-for-profit social enterprise that uses all funds in excess of running costs to develop medicines and vaccines that may have limited commercial opportunity but address important unmet medical needs. For more information, visit [medicinesdevelopment.com](http://medicinesdevelopment.com).

#### **ABOUT FAST COMPANY**

*Fast Company* is the only media brand fully dedicated to the vital intersection of business, innovation, and design, engaging the most influential leaders, companies, and thinkers on the future of business. Since 2011, *Fast Company* has received some of the most prestigious editorial and design accolades, including the American Society of Magazine Editors (ASME) National Magazine Award for “Magazine of the Year,” *Adweek*’s Hot List for “Hottest Business Publication,” and 6 gold medals and 10 silver medals from the Society of Publication Designers. The editor-in-chief is Stephanie Mehta and the publisher is Amanda Smith. Headquartered in New York City, *Fast Company* is published by Mansueto Ventures LLC, along with their sister publication Inc., and can be found online at [fastcompany.com](http://fastcompany.com).