

---

**Date:** February 5, 2004

**For Release:** Immediately

**Refer to:** 2711-510-9426 - Siphos Moshwane - Lilly South Africa  
317-433-9899 - Edward Sagebiel - Lilly USA

**Lilly Formalizes Agreement With Aspen Pharmacare To Transfer Technology For Manufacturing Antibiotics Necessary To Treat Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis**

**Cape Town, South Africa** – Eli Lilly and Company today announced a partnership with Aspen Pharmacare, Africa's largest pharmaceutical manufacturer and the largest listed pharmaceutical company in South Africa. This partnership will include the transfer of Lilly's global technology that will enable Aspen to manufacture the essential antibiotics (capreomycin and cycloserine) needed to treat patients with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).

In June 2003 Lilly unveiled a global effort with the World Health Organization (WHO); the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), an affiliate of Harvard Medical School; Purdue University; and the International Council of Nurses (ICN) to increase the number of trained personnel and drugs available to treat the expanding crisis of MDR-TB.

At that time, Lilly announced that this pioneering effort would include:

- Transferring its technology to manufacture two antibiotics necessary for treatment of MDR-TB to nations where the disease is most prevalent;
- Establishing a Center of Excellence for the training of medical personnel in the treatment of MDR-TB to help prevent further spread of the disease;
- Leading an effort to establish a comprehensive surveillance program to monitor the development of resistance against the antibiotics used to treat MDR-TB;
- Investing in facilities improvements that will enable the company to initiate production of both of these essential drugs used to treat MDR-TB.

MDR-TB is a strain of tuberculosis that often develops in patients who do not comply with the prescribed treatment for TB. Once a strain of MDR-TB develops, it can spread to others just as

---

“normal” TB. MDR-TB is most likely to occur among patients in developing nations where trained medical personnel and drug supplies are limited. Each year, roughly 400,000 new cases of MDR-TB occur in more than 100 countries. The WHO estimates that an average MDR-TB patient infects up to 20 other people in his or her lifetime.

“Today’s announcement marks an important milestone in Lilly’s effort to increase the supply of drugs available to treat the expanding global crisis of MDR-TB,” said Gail Cassell, Ph.D, vice president, scientific affairs and distinguished Lilly research scholar for infectious diseases. “Aspen Pharmacare has a successful track record coupled with a strong regional presence that creates an ideal partnership for this important initiative.”

Cassell noted that as part of the agreement, Lilly would assist Aspen in the conversion of its existing facilities to support the manufacturing of capreomycin. Lilly will also provide technical expertise and training necessary to complete the technology transfer and ensure the long-term success of the manufacturing partnership.

“Aspen has remained committed to playing a meaningful role in combating infectious diseases such as TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria. This agreement strengthens the company’s position in the fight against TB,” said Stephen Saad, chief executive officer, Aspen Pharmacare Group. “Aspen’s commitment to the struggle against HIV/AIDS is well documented and our affordable generic antiretroviral (ARV) alternatives have been recognized both nationally and internationally by the Clinton Foundation.”

Christopher Whitfield, chief executive officer of Lilly South Africa, added, “Today’s announcement is also a continuation of both companies’ efforts to collaborate where and when necessary to address the healthcare challenges that continue to face us. This is a further confirmation of Lilly’s commitment to be in Africa for Africa,”

For more information about the Lilly MDR-TB partnership, visit our Website at [www.lillyMDR-TB.com](http://www.lillyMDR-TB.com)

About Aspen Pharmacare:

---

Aspen is a major supplier of branded pharmaceutical and healthcare products to the local and selected international markets with offices in South Africa, the United Kingdom and Australia. Aspen has been producing and marketing products that cover the ethical, generic, OTC, nutraceutical and personal care sectors of the industry for decades. Aspen has retained its position for a number of years as the leading supplier of generic medicines to the public sector, providing comprehensive coverage of the products on the Essential Drug List. The group launched Aspen Stavudine, Africa's first generic ARV in August 2003. For more information about Aspen, go to [www.aspenpharma.com](http://www.aspenpharma.com).

About Lilly:

Lilly, a leading innovation-driven corporation, is developing a growing portfolio of first-in-class and best-in-class pharmaceutical products by applying the latest research from its own worldwide laboratories and from collaborations with eminent scientific organizations. Headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind., Lilly provides answers – through medicines and information – for some of the world's most urgent medical needs.

# # #