**Research on Access to Effective Medicines:**

**Improving access to medicines for non-communicable diseases in the developing world**

The key goal of [this] review was to help set priorities, on behalf of the research-based pharmaceutical industry, for the future policy research agenda on improving access to NCD medicines in the developing world. [It] shows that NCDs present a growing challenge for developing countries and create the real possibility that gains in health made possible by better control of infectious disease and economic development are being eroded. The magnitude of these chronic diseases suggests that a robust policy response is needed. As the WHO and many other leading organizations and experts have pointed out, health promotion and disease prevention must be the cornerstones of this policy response, because improving health-related behaviors and reducing risk factors for chronic disease is the only way to reverse the underlying drivers of the NCD burden. But better prevention will take decades to achieve and will not eliminate NCDs completely, suggesting that health system capabilities must be improved in parallel. And since NCD medicines offer substantial public health gains, access to medicines is a critical component of chronic disease care.*†


**Global Health News:**

**WIPO Re:Search bridges public, private sectors for neglected disease research**

“Neglected tropical diseases are century-old diseases and today we see new hope,” Margaret Chan, director general of the World Health Organization told a crowd at [the 26 October] launch of a new public-private collaboration to develop medicines for the poorest countries. The project, called Re:Search, was launched at the World Intellectual Property Organization [WIPO], […] WIPO Re:Search is a collaboration of public and private sector stakeholders for the research and development of medicines to treat neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), malaria, and tuberculosis. Neglected diseases are those that predominantly afflict poor populations for which the economic incentive is lacking for research and development of the needed treatments. Consortium providers, such as AstraZeneca and the South Africa Medical Research Council, have made available intellectual property to NTD, malaria, and tuberculosis researchers through the WIPO Re:Search database. Researchers can settle there for compounds, unpublished scientific results, patents and patent rights, screening and platform technologies, and regulatory dossiers. Although the information platform is freely accessible to the public, licenses to any products born out of this initiative will be royalty-free only in 49 least developed countries (LDCs). Licenses to other developing countries will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.*

*Source: Hermann, Rachel Marusak. 2011. WIPO Re:search Bridges Public, Private Sectors for Neglected Disease Research. Intellectual Property Watch online (27 October).*

**Global Health News:**

**Convention to combat fake medicines signed**

Russia, France, Germany and several other mostly European countries on Friday signed the first-ever international treaty to combat the growing multibillion-dollar counterfeit drugs industry. The Council of Europe-sponsored Medicrime Convention, signed in Moscow, obliges signatory states to criminalize a broad range of activities that make possible the sale of fake medicines that harm patients and deprive legal producers of revenues. […] Ambassadors and diplomats of Austria, Finland, Italy, Israel, Iceland, Portugal, Switzerland and Ukraine have signed the treaty [which] establishes as criminal offenses such activities as the manufacturing of counterfeit medical products (including equipment), their supply and offers to supply, trafficking and the falsification of related documents.*