

Initiative for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies Strategic Plan 2017-2020



There is an urgent need for products that prevent HIV, other STIs, and unintended pregnancy for adolescent girls and young women. Multipurpose prevention technologies (MPTs) are a class of products, in development, that would deliver varied combinations of HIV prevention, other STI prevention, and contraception. The Initiative for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (IMPT) advances the development of MPTs driven by the commitment that safe, affordable, and easy-to-use products could dramatically improve the lives of women and their families worldwide. The IMPT works to highlight MPTs' potential while simultaneously addressing the barriers to their development and eventual use.

The IMPT is an international, multidisciplinary collaboration of experts working to advance the science needed to develop and introduce MPTs. It is product neutral, championing the MPT field as a whole rather than any particular product or product approach. The IMPT includes a wide range of stakeholders – researchers, product developers, funders, technical agencies, policy makers, and advocates. Together these experts raise awareness of and support for the MPT concept, identify innovative approaches to move the science of MPTs forward, and identify knowledge gaps critical to the MPT field and strategies to fill them.

The IMPT works to enhance the collective expertise of the MPT field through convening think tanks and technical meetings, producing targeted analyses, and developing technical tools and outreach materials. These activities are aimed at addressing uncertainties and risks around scientific feasibility or markets in order to draw a wider array of product developers and investors. Through 2020, the work of the IMPT will focus within three complementary areas:

Strategic communication to enhance stakeholder engagement

Communication and advocacy are at the core of the IMPT's mission. Since its inception, the IMPT has worked to guide and champion the MPT field through raising the profile of MPTs and their potential for public health impact. The IMPT's strategic communication work helps shape and reflect the changing scientific and policy landscape around MPTs and aims to:

- Strengthen communication among partners and key stakeholders to facilitate ongoing work across the MPT field that is collaborative and transparent, and that builds on the strengths of diverse partners, and reflects the most current thinking and diverse perspectives on scientific approaches, market considerations, and funding potential.
- Enhance the IMPT product database and resource center to make it user-friendly and to ensure that IMPT analyses and other resources are available and actionable to diverse stakeholders working on MPTs and in related fields.
- Convene stakeholders virtually to address key technical and policy issues, including through webinars on priority technical issues.
- Undertake strategic engagement to raise awareness and interest in the MPT field, especially aimed at generating new sources of funding and investment.

Social, behavioral, and market considerations to achieve public health impact

Social, behavioral, and market considerations are essential to ensuring MPTs have a public health impact. Through expert consultation and evidence review, the IMPT will continue to work to identify key gaps and priorities and to guide, promote, and enable additional analyses or studies in the target population(s) to enhance use and impact through activities to:

- Assess preferred product characteristics for priority target populations based on their needs and desires. The IMPT will inform and champion this work, and build on a strategic assessment of existing research to identify the best approaches to identifying end-user priorities.
- Shape ongoing and emerging research including PrEP roll out and intravaginal ring studies to ensure that it can inform MPT development and implementation.
- Ensure that access considerations factor into MPT product development and investment decisions through updating the market access framework to reflect the most current evidence and experience with product roll out and implementation.

Epidemiological and clinical expertise to shape product development

Through convening scientists, funders, and policy makers, the IMPT provides a forum for diverse stakeholders to engage across disciplines, identify gaps, and answer critical questions around the basic science of MPTs. The IMPT will hone in on deepening analyses of priority issues identified through this work to:

- Define, characterize, and build agreement on the priority target population(s) where MPTs that combine HIV prevention and contraception can have the most impact. This analysis will guide product development, inform funding priorities, and form the basis of a model to help guide investor and developer decision-making around MPTs.
- Facilitate implementation and follow up on the strategic action framework on hormonal contraception and HIV. This framework is derived from the key challenges and priority actions identified in a series of expert think tanks convened by the IMPT.

As MPT products move into clinical testing, the IMPT will reaffirm its role as a neutral, nimble convener working with stakeholders to assess gaps, plans, and priorities. It will also work to match critical areas of work with funding opportunities to drive forward the realization of MPTs' potential to meet the very real needs of women and girls worldwide.

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