# MPT Priority Action Areas & Gaps

*Reflects IMPT stakeholder feedback as of July 2021*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MPT Fieldwide Action Areas</th>
<th>IMPT Progress to Date</th>
<th>Remaining Fieldwide Gaps</th>
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<td><strong>1. Enhance the product-neutral platform to facilitate the development of MPTs</strong> 1-13</td>
<td><strong>Progress to Date:</strong> IMPT launched in 2009; MPT research hub including database of MPTs in active development, technical resource database, and funding &amp; training opportunities; MPTs featured in peer-reviewed publications, mainstream media, global health guidance documents, conference agendas, etc.</td>
<td><strong>Gaps:</strong> (a) An enhanced, comprehensive resource hub to inform multidisciplinary partner efforts to advance MPT development and access; (b) tailored product-neutral, multidisciplinary technical resources for product developers and funders (examples below); (c) product development standards typically required by regulatory bodies established by a product-neutral, multidisciplinary body</td>
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<td><strong>2. Improve guidance for combining active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs)</strong> 5, 10-14</td>
<td><strong>Progress to Date:</strong> Improved understanding of hormonal contraceptive and ARV drug interactions; anti-infective assessment conducted; convenings &amp; other learning opportunities for MPT stakeholders</td>
<td><strong>Gaps:</strong> (a) Insufficient guidance for early-stage product developers around technical approaches and regulatory requirements for combination drug products (e.g., physical chemistry compatibility, dose selection, toxicology, bioequivalence, drug-drug interactions, CMC, etc.); (b) technical tools/resources (in alignment with 1b)</td>
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<td><strong>3. Create ecosystem of MPT innovation</strong> 8, 11</td>
<td><strong>Progress to Date:</strong> Increased multidisciplinary dialogue and collaboration, including between researchers, science training platforms, public and private sector funders, and community stakeholders (e.g., connect HIV &amp; other STI prevention with contraceptive researchers to promote new MPT approaches)</td>
<td><strong>Gaps:</strong> (a) Collaborative and nurturing training environments that foster a pipeline of trained scientists across geographies and generations; (b) increase resources available for small centers and biotech firms across the globe to advance MPTs</td>
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<td>4. Integrate socio-behavioral &amp; market research (SBR) into MPT R&amp;D &amp; introduction strategies</td>
<td><strong>Progress to Date:</strong> SBR relevant resources, webinars and interactive ArcGIS MPT Target Population Mapping Tool for sub-Saharan Africa on IMPT website; SBR convenings &amp; other learning opportunities for developers and SBR experts</td>
<td><strong>Gaps:</strong> (a) Identification of target populations and their MPT preferred product characteristics in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond; (b) prioritization standards and guidance for successful MPT delivery, distribution &amp; uptake, including how to ensure successes in contraceptive uptake are not compromised by more medicalized HIV &amp; STI prevention; (c) insufficient understanding of the impact of MPT on contraception uptake and in addressing fertility concerns such as infertility risk due to STIs</td>
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<td>5. Improve understanding of cervicovaginal microbiome (CVM) linkages with MPT R&amp;D</td>
<td><strong>Progress to Date:</strong> Increased recognition of the relationship between CVM and risk of HIV and other STI acquisition; IMPT engaging with experts to help inform linkages between CVM and MPT R&amp;D through convenings &amp; other learning opportunities for MPT stakeholders</td>
<td><strong>Gaps:</strong> Insufficient understanding of CVM and relevance to reproductive health, including for MPT R&amp;D: (a) identification of appropriate human CVM assessments given lack of animal models; (b) improved diagnostics for microbiome analysis; (c) unpacking racial/geographical CVM differences; (d) better understanding of the protective role of lactobacilli in risk of HIV and other STIs; (e) the role of microbiome for drug uptake/drug-microbiome interaction; (f) technical tools/resources (in alignment with 1b)</td>
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<td>6. Optimize investments in MPTs</td>
<td><strong>Progress to Date:</strong> Funder/investor engagement; creation of MPT Supporting Agency Collaboration Committee (SACC); development of MPT business case</td>
<td><strong>Gaps:</strong> (a) Access to market assessment tools and related guidance for MPT developers to inform product ROI/impact (e.g., cost effectiveness, demand forecasting, etc.); (b) opportunities to explore synergies and leverage current support to secure private sector investment; (c) enhanced advocacy tools for awareness-raising among new potential MPT investors</td>
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Sources:

9. IMPT. "It's all in a Decade's Work: A Ten Year Retrospective Report on the IMPT." 2019
15. IMPT. "MPT Dosage-Form Specific TPPs." 2014
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21. Tolley E. "Traditional Socio-Behavioral Research and Human-Centered Design: Similarities, Unique Contributions and Synergies." 2017
22. IMPT. "IMPT Target Population Identification Mapping Tool." 2019
23. IMPT webinar: "The role of cerviovaginal microbiota on contraceptive and MPT development," presented by Jacques Ravel and Jennifer Deese. 2020
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