

MPT Priority Action Areas & Gaps

* Reflects IMPT stakeholder feedback as of July 2021

■ Short-term activity
 ■ Medium-term activity
 ■ Long-term activity

MPT Fieldwide Action Areas	IMPT Progress to Date	Remaining Fieldwide Gaps
1. Enhance the product-neutral platform to facilitate the development of MPTs ¹⁻¹³	Progress to Date: IMPT launched in 2009; MPT research hub including database of MPTs in active development, technical resource database, and funding & training opportunities; MPTs featured in peer-reviewed publications, mainstream media, global health guidance documents, conference agendas, etc.	Gaps: (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
2. Improve guidance for combining active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) ^{5, 10-14}	Progress to Date: Improved understanding of hormonal contraceptive and ARV drug interactions; anti-infective assessment conducted; convenings & other learning opportunities for MPT stakeholders	Gaps: (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)
3. Create ecosystem of MPT innovation ^{8, 11}	Progress to Date: Increased multidisciplinary dialogue and collaboration, including between researchers, science training platforms, public and private sector funders, and community stakeholders (e.g., connect HIV & other STI prevention with contraceptive researchers to promote new MPT approaches)	Gaps: (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

Short-term activity

Medium-term activity

Long-term activity

MPT Fieldwide Action Areas	IMPT Progress to Date	Remaining Fieldwide Gaps
<p>4. Integrate socio-behavioral & market research (SBR) into MPT R&D & introduction strategies ^{5, 11, 17-22}</p>	<p>Progress to Date: SBR relevant resources, webinars and interactive ArcGIS MPT Target Population Mapping Tool for sub-Saharan Africa on IMPT website; SBR convenings & other learning opportunities for developers and SBR experts</p>	<p>Gaps: (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 & uptake, including how to ensure successes in contraceptive uptake are not compromised by more medicalized HIV & 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</p>
<p>5. Improve understanding of cervicovaginal microbiome (CVM) linkages with MPT R&D ^{11,23}</p>	<p>Progress to Date: 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&D through convenings & other learning opportunities for MPT stakeholders</p>	<p>Gaps: Insufficient understanding of CVM and relevance to reproductive health, including for MPT R&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)</p>
<p>6. Optimize investments in MPTs ^{11, 18, 24-26}</p>	<p>Progress to Date: Funder/investor engagement; creation of MPT Supporting Agency Collaboration Committee (SACC); development of MPT business case</p>	<p>Gaps: (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</p>

Sources:

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