

MPT Priority Action Areas and Progress Towards Action Area #1

Background:

Established in 2013, the mission of the Supporting Agency Collaboration Committee (SACC) is to facilitate collaboration and build consensus among supporting agencies to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of MPT funding. The SACC is composed of representatives from public, private and foundation funders with diverse funding mandates and priorities, meets twice a year, and has prioritized five critical action areas (Table 1). Outcomes from IMPT stakeholder convenings and MPT action area assessments have been published in [peer-reviewed publications](#). A special issue in *Frontiers in Reproductive Health* aims to stimulate strategic thinking and action needed to address these action areas. The call for papers can be found [here](#).

Table 1: The MPT Fieldwide Action Areas (as of May 2023)






| Action Area |
|---|
| <p>1. A productive ecosystem of MPT product R&D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on new products: (1) Expanded pipeline of researchers for expanded product R&D; (2) Enhanced physical infrastructure for product R&D; (3) Geographic expansion for MPT R&D; (4) Expanded generic licensing opportunities and geographically broad manufacturing base ○ Focus on funding to support necessary expansion of MPT ecosystem: (1) Novel and innovative funding and investment approaches to ensure successful development of MPTs through commercialization and scale-up; (2) Enhanced ability for cost-effective collaborations |
| <p>2. Improved understanding of reproductive biology for the purpose of new pharmaceutical development for MPT R&D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhanced focus on non-hormonal MPTs & male contraceptive options ○ Expanded understanding of cervicovaginal microbiome, pharmacogenomics, etc. ○ Expanded understanding of underlying conditions in those likely to use MPTs |
| <p>3. Expanded understanding of socio-behavioral research (SBR) considerations among underrepresented groups in MPT research, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ People under the age of 18 ○ People with gynecological conditions ○ Sexual and gender minority (SGM) populations; ○ Older populations (e.g., perimenopausal women); ○ Those known to metabolize drugs differently (e.g., obese individuals, Down syndrome patients) |
| <p>4. Expanded understanding of market considerations to help ensure successful commercialization and uptake of MPTs, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Market segmentation and target segment identification ○ Switching between products and triggers estimates ○ Demand forecasting |
| <p>5. Enhanced understanding of innovative approaches for MPT clinical trials that address regulatory and ethical challenges of testing multiple indications in the same trial</p> |

Pathway to address Action Area #1

The focus of the December 2022 SACC meeting was to **better understand the pathway to address Action Area #1: A productive ecosystem of MPT product R&D**, and identify approaches the SACC can consider to collectively **address steps along the pathway**. Key takeaways and proposed next steps that came out of this meeting were identified. The status of progress made to date to address these are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Status of Prioritized Action Steps to Advance Action Area #1 (as of May 2023)

Key:  = in progress/completed,  = need additional support,  = not yet initiated

| What is the need? | Status | Progress of action items |
|--|---|--|
| Inform early investigators about training and fellowship opportunities |  | Male Contraceptive Initiative (MCI), with support from IMPT & NICHD, hosted a webinar on February 7, 2023 , entitled: CT/MPT Fellowship Opportunities for early investigators & students. |
| As new active pharmaceutical ingredients are identified for STI prevention, there is a need to connect researchers across the globe to share information on compounds suitable for future MPTs |  | IMPT & UCSF are developing a concept note to develop an open-source database of compounds in development with activity against one of more STIs and BV . This builds on a landscape assessment of compounds in development published in the journal BMJ STI and work supported by NICHD (here). |
| Identify MPT market potential for dual markets (i.e., LMICs and upper income) to align with public sector funders/investors and industry |  | IMPT is developing a concept note to support development of market estimates for: the US, Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, India, and China. In Feb 2023, SACC members participated in the Reproductive Health Innovation Summit, Boston 2023 hosting an event with impact investors and working with conference organizers to have an MPT focused panel at an upcoming Summit. The IMPT is also exploring opportunities to align this gap with MATRIX BACH activities. |
| Connect researchers, funders, and stakeholders from diverse MPT-relevant backgrounds to stimulate innovation and opportunities for collaboration |  | IMPT is developing a concept note to support convenings of anti-infective and contraceptive researchers through MPT focused workshop(s) at: the 2023 Contraceptive Development meeting and a virtual meeting or ½ day meeting as part of another currently planned convening in 2024. Investor advocacy around MPTs is being planned for the WHIS in Boston with IMPT and SACC stakeholders who are attending. |
| Inform MPT partners the regulatory pathways/challenges and opportunities for MPTs |  | The Regulatory Guidance hub on the IMPT website provides resources for product developers. IMPT has started preliminary discussions to determine if the current pathways require amendment and is exploring alignments with MATRIX. |

**This is an iterative process and activities will be updated to refine action items towards achieving goals.*

Table updated May 2023.