

## Press Release

April 22, 2026

### **The Global Health Innovative Technology Fund provides grant for preclinical development into anti-malarial drugs with novel mechanisms of action conducted by Tanabe Pharma and malaria research institutions**

Tanabe Pharma Corporation (Head Office: Chuo-Ku, Osaka; Representative Director: Akihiro Harada; hereinafter, "Tanabe Pharma") has been conducting joint research with Medicines for Malaria Venture ("MMV"), a non-profit organization focused on malaria treatment, and the University of Georgia ("UGA"). Tanabe Pharma has announced that a grant of approximately JPY 700 million will be provided by the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund ("GHIT Fund") for a two-year project aimed at preclinical development to create clinical candidates for next-generation anti-malarial drugs with novel mechanisms of action.

Tanabe Pharma initiated joint research into anti-malarial drugs with MMV in 2015 using its proprietary compound library, supported by grants from the GHIT Fund. In 2023, UGA also joined this research, and the three parties successfully generated Late Lead(s) that meet MMV's criteria. These compounds show ideal properties as next-generation anti-malarial drugs. In the current project, we aim to successfully conduct preclinical development of Single Encounter Radical Cure and Prophylaxis (SERCAP) or Chemoprevention (oral or injectable) that are effective against both *falciparum* malaria and *vivax* malaria including the prevention of its relapse.

Malaria is one of the world's three major infectious diseases, alongside HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. End the epidemics of malaria is the target under Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); "Good health and well-being." Tanabe Pharma contributes to the realization of a sustainable society through the creation of pharmaceuticals that address unmet medical needs and will provide hopeful options for all people facing illness.


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■ About the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund)

The GHIT Fund is a Japan-based international public-private partnership fund (PPP) that was formed between the Government of Japan, multiple pharmaceutical companies, the Gates Foundation, Wellcome, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The GHIT Fund invests in and manages an R&D portfolio of development partnerships aimed at addressing neglected diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases, which afflict the world's vulnerable and underserved populations. In collaboration



with global partners, the GHIT Fund mobilizes Japanese industry, academia, and research institutes to create new drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics for malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases.

<https://www.ghitfund.org/>

#### ■ About Malaria

Malaria, which caused about 610,000 deaths in 2024, most of them in children under the age of five, is an infectious disease caused by parasites of the genus *Plasmodium*. In humans, five species of *Plasmodium* are known to cause the disease. Of particular relevance are *P. falciparum*, which is the most lethal and accounts for most of the cases mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and *P. vivax* which is prevalent in Southeast Asia and the Americas and causes post-treatment disease relapse due to a latent liver form of the parasite. Current antimalarial control is highly dependent on artemisinin combination therapies (ACTs), and it is concerning that decreased parasite sensitivity has emerged to all currently used ACTs, leading to significant failure rates in parts of Southeast Asia where partner drug resistance is evident. If resistance becomes widespread in Africa (where most deaths occur), a major health crisis is feared.