Essential Medicines Position Statement

The University of Edinburgh is committed to advancing development in the world’s poorest countries. It recognises that improving health and access to medicines are among the most pressing needs and continues to pioneer world-class research into the often preventable diseases that take millions of lives every year.

To ensure the fruits of its research are accessible to those in greatest need, the University's policy when licensing its technology for commercial purposes is, as far as is practicable:

1. To prosecute patent applications in less developed countries only as necessary (for example, to provide development and marketing leverage for new products, or to exert leverage over global licensees);

2. To include, where possible, provisions in our licenses that seek to increase the availability of medicines at affordable prices to less developed countries.

It expects its commercial licensing partners to appreciate and cooperate with this policy.

18th March 2009