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日本発 顧みられない熱帯病治療薬開発への挑戦

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The challenge of developing new treatments  
for NTDs originating from Japan

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**Abstract**

African sleeping sickness, leishmaniasis, Chagas or Dengue, endemic diseases among the poor in tropical developing countries, are defined as NTDs (Neglected Tropical Diseases) because even through globally there are >1 billion patients it is difficult to develop new treatments in a profit-driven drug development system, and every year >1 million people die from these diseases. Even though Japan has contributed to international society through the discovery by Omura et al. of ivermectin for onchocerciasis, a NTD, compared to its drug discovery and development capabilities, results have been limited.

However, as evidenced by ebola, new health threats due to globalization require efficient drug development through new forms of collaboration between industry, academia and governments. Today innovative drug development mechanisms based on Product Development Partnerships (PDP) between industry, academia and governments help deliver new treatments for NTDs from compound screening to clinical trials and approval in endemic countries.

We will discuss recent trends in NTD drug development and ways of creating a new system for development of NTD treatments originating from Japan.

**Key words**

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), drug discovery, Product Development Partnerships (PDP), Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi), global health

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