



ATOM
Access to Oncology Medicines



UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2022, 10:30 CET

STATEMENT

On Medicines Patent Pool and Novartis

first ever voluntary licence agreement for a cancer drug - nilotinib - used for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia

Thursday October 20, 2022 (Geneva, Switzerland) – [The Access to Oncology Medicines \(ATOM\) Coalition](#) Secretariat today, on Thursday 20 October 2022, welcomed the ground-breaking decision by two of its partners, the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) and Novartis, to voluntarily licence nilotinib.

“This is a first for cancer treatment anywhere and demonstrates that the combined efforts of the private and public sectors can pave the way to help save millions of lives,” said **Anil D-Cruz**, Co-Chair of the Access to Oncology Medicines (ATOM) Coalition Executive Committee and the Immediate Past President of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

The announcement by MPP and Novartis was made on the final day of UICC’s flagship event, the [World Cancer Congress](#), being held this week in Geneva, Switzerland.

“The ATOM Coalition was instrumental in facilitating this agreement and through this network of partners, the Coalition is helping to ensure that more drugs become increasingly affordable and accessible around the world,” said **Gilberto Lopes**, Co-Chair of the ATOM Coalition Executive Committee and Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Miami.

“Innovative solutions like the one announced today should be an example for others to follow, helping millions more people access essential, life-saving cancer medicines.”

ENDS

About the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) is the largest and oldest international cancer-fighting organisation. Founded in Geneva in 1933, UICC has over 1,200 member organisations in 172 countries. It enjoys consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and has official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UICC has over 50 partners, including associations, companies and foundations committed to the fight against cancer. UICC is a founding member of the NCD Alliance, the McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer and the International Cancer Control Partnership (ICCP). UICC established the City Cancer Challenge Foundation in January 2019 and the Access to Oncology Medicines (ATOM) Coalition in 2022.

UICC's mission is to both unite and support the cancer community in its efforts to reduce the global cancer burden, promote greater equity and ensure that cancer control remains a priority on the global health and development agenda. It pursues these goals by bringing together global leaders through innovative and far-reaching cancer-control events and initiatives, building capacities to meet regional needs and developing awareness campaigns.

About the ATOM Coalition

Launched in 2022, the Access to Oncology Medicines (ATOM) Coalition is an innovative partnership, leading global collective action to increase access to essential life-saving cancer medicines and diagnostics in low- and lower-middle income countries (LLMICs). Established by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), the ATOM Coalition brings together more than 30 expert organisations from civil society, and the public and private sectors, in a shared ambition: "To reduce suffering and deaths caused by cancer in low- and lower-middle income countries through improved access to and use of essential cancer medicines."

www.uicc.org/atomcoalition

About World Cancer Congress

The World Cancer Congress unites the global health and cancer community with a multidisciplinary programme that features the latest successful interventions in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care.

The Congress was awarded 'Best Conference Development' and 'Best use of social media' at the [2017 Association Excellence Awards](#).

