

**Statement by Medicus Mundi International
to the 67th session of the World Health Assembly
on agenda item 13.5 'Psoriasis' to be delivered by David Legge**

Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to address the Assembly on behalf of Medicus Mundi International and the People's Health Movement.

The resolution before the Assembly ([EB133.R2](#)) effectively asks WHO to endorse World Psoriasis Day.

World Psoriasis Day is sponsored by the International Federation of Psoriasis Associations which is supported by, among others, Pfizer, Novartis, Lilly, Leo, Celgene and AbbVie. Over half of the 42 member associations with active websites acknowledge drug company support on their websites. One national psoriasis association acknowledged receiving drug company support to the value of several million USD per year.

Drugs for treating psoriasis are among the top revenue-earning drugs in the world. Three of these drugs, marketed by AbbVie, Pfizer and Janssen, have been identified by Forbes in 2012 as being among the top ten revenue earning drugs ever. The combined sales of just these three products was US\$ 25 billion.

All these drugs are extremely expensive and are therefore inaccessible in LMICs; on average, a year's treatment with any of these drugs cost about \$20,000. These drugs are also key to the healthy profit margins of the companies involved. It is reasonable to speculate that one motive for drug company support for World Psoriasis Day is directed to expanding the global market for these products.

When this resolution appeared on the agenda of EB133 there was no mention of any possible conflict of interest, neither by the sponsors of the resolution, nor the Secretariat, nor the International Federation of Psoriasis Associations (IFPA) which spoke to the resolution as a member of IAPO.

The Psoriasis Association (UK) (whose representative spoke as an affiliate of IAPO) is supported by grants from a number of pharmaceutical companies.

We urge the Assembly not to endorse World Psoriasis Day.

Thank you.