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**The Global Health Innovative Technology Fund  
provides grant to Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma and DNDi  
for Chagas disease and leishmaniasis drug discovery**

~Targeting treatments for infectious diseases that  
impact people in developing countries~

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation (Head Office: Chuo-ku, Osaka; President and CEO: Hiroaki Ueno) and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi), an international not-for-profit research and development organization, will start drug discovery research on lead compounds targeting Chagas disease and leishmaniasis in April 2021, with funding from the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund).

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma and DNDi have collaborated closely since September 2019 on screening project financed by the GHIT Fund and have successfully identified nine active series. All series are novel to DNDi discovery programs and satisfy all target criteria set by the GHIT Fund and DNDi, resulting in successful progression to the 'hit-to-lead' stage of the drug discovery process. Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma and DNDi will receive an additional grant of 117 million yen from the GHIT Fund to support two years of collaboration to identify new lead compounds that meet the criteria set by DNDi.

Chagas disease and leishmaniasis are diseases caused by parasitic infections that can be fatal if not treated, each killing about 10,000 people each year. Improved treatments for the diseases are needed because current options are subefficacious, can cause serious side effects, and can be poorly tolerated, lengthy, painful, and costly.

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma is advancing business activities under the MISSION of "Creating hope for all facing illness". In addition, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma has identified access to healthcare as one of the material issues in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Moving forward, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma will work toward the realization of a sustainable society by contributing to the health of people around the world through the discovery of drugs that address unmet medical needs and through participation in the GHIT Fund and other initiatives.

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### ■ About Chagas disease

Chagas disease is a potentially life-threatening disease caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*, which is transmitted by the bite of a kissing bug (reduviid bugs). Symptoms of Chagas disease include high fever, rash, lymphadenitis, hepatosplenomegaly and unilateral eyelid edema in the acute phase (1 week to several months), followed by myocarditis and megacolon in the chronic phase (10 years to several decades later) initially without symptoms. Chagas disease affects about 6-7 million people.

### ■ About Leishmaniasis

Leishmaniasis is caused by several species of *Leishmania* parasites, which are spread when infected sandflies bite animals or people. There are three main forms of leishmaniasis, which affect different parts of the body: the internal organs (most severe), the skin (common), and the mucous membranes. More than one million people are newly infected with leishmaniasis each year.

### ■ About DNDi

The Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi) is a not-for-profit, patient-oriented research and development organization working to deliver safe, effective, and accessible treatments for millions of people living in vulnerable conditions and affected by neglected diseases, notably Chagas disease, leishmaniasis, sleeping sickness, filarial infections, mycetoma, paediatric HIV and hepatitis C.