50 YEARS OF GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRESS

1968: Studies of cancer in nonhuman primates provided compelling new evidence that the Epstein-Barr virus, discovered four years earlier, can lead to cancer in humans. 40

1974: Expanded Programme on immunization (EPI) established to develop and expand immunization programs, initially targeting diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, and tuberculosis, towards the goal of providing universal immunization for all children by 1990. 40

1976: The first angiotensin-converting-enzyme (ACE) inhibitor developed for the treatment of hypertension, is discovered. 44

1980: Worldwide vaccination programs result in the eradication of smallpox, a contagious virus with no known cure which killed an estimated 300-500 million people in the 20th century. 41

1981: First IFPMA Code of Practice developed as the foundation for industry’s global self-regulation, setting ethical and professional standards. 42

1987: First IFPMA Code of Practice developed as the foundation for industry’s global self-regulation, setting ethical and professional standards. 42

1987: Ivermectin developed for parasitic infections in animals and it is later found an effective treatment for river blindness and lymphatic filariasis in humans, two debilitating diseases which affect the world’s poorest populations. 43

1987: Verapamil, a calcium channel blocker, is approved for the treatment of hypertension, setting ethical and professional standards. 44

1987: First statin approved, a key step in reducing cardiovascular disease. 45

1988: WHO publishes Ethical Criteria for Medicinal Drug Promotion, the first frame of reference for judging proper behavior in drug promotion. 45

1989: Biotechnology scientists identify the previously unidentified virus Hepatitis C, which is now known to affect about 2% of the world’s population. 46

1990: Launch of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) established to provide immunization for all children by 1990. 47

1991: First IFPMA Code of Practice developed as the foundation for industry’s global self-regulation, setting ethical and professional standards. 48

1996: A new class of combined antiretroviral treatment, HAART, is developed, leading to a 50% drop in the number of AIDS-related deaths in the U.S. and Europe in three years. 49

1998: WHO publishes Ethical Criteria for Medicinal Drug Promotion, the first frame of reference for judging proper behavior in drug promotion. 49

2000: Adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a blueprint for meeting the needs of the world’s poorest with a focus on child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases. 50

2001: First approval of a TB drug in 40 years, bedaquiline, unique in that it interferes with the enzyme required by bacteria to replicate. 51

2006: Human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine approved, which protects from cervical cancer, a common cancer among women under 35. 52

2007: First IFPMA Code of Practice developed as the foundation for industry’s global self-regulation, setting ethical and professional standards. 53

2008: First approval of a combination therapy for HIV, which includes a new class of antiretroviral drugs, which improves the quality of life for patients. 54

2009: The first antiretroviral (ARV) drug approved by the US FDA as treatment for HIV, beginning a new era of highly active ARV treatment. 55

2010: First approval of a combination therapy for HIV, which includes a new class of antiretroviral drugs, which improves the quality of life for patients. 56

2011: Approval of direct acting antivirals (DAAs), called protease inhibitors, which, combined with interferon and ribavirin, improve cure rates among patients with the most common hepatitis C genotype to 70%. 57

2012: Launch of Access Accelerated with 23 global biopharmaceutical companies, the World Bank, the Union of International Cancer Control (UICC), and Boston University to combat NCDs globally. 58

2012: Signing of the London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases: 14 billion treatments pledged and commitment to control, eliminate or eradicate 10 debilitating NTDs responsible for more than 90% of the global neglected diseases burden by 2020. 59

2013: First approval of a combination therapy for HIV, which includes a new class of antiretroviral drugs, which improves the quality of life for patients. 60

2014: Development of CAR-T cell therapies - programmed T cells aim to hunt, bind to, and eliminate cancer cells. 61

2015: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders, setting out a global sustainable development agenda which emphasizes collaboration across countries, actors, and sectors for a wide array of development outcomes, health and wellbeing prime among them. 62

2016: First approval of a combination therapy for HIV, which includes a new class of antiretroviral drugs, which improves the quality of life for patients. 63

2017: First approval of a combination therapy for HIV, which includes a new class of antiretroviral drugs, which improves the quality of life for patients. 64

2018: RTS,S malaria vaccine introduced in pilot immunization programs in three African countries – Kenya, Malawi, and Ghana. 65

2019: First approval of a combination therapy for HIV, which includes a new class of antiretroviral drugs, which improves the quality of life for patients. 66

2020: First approval of a combination therapy for HIV, which includes a new class of antiretroviral drugs, which improves the quality of life for patients. 67

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