



## **Issues Regarding Marketing and Distribution of Vaccines in Developing Countries**

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Access to vaccines in the developing world is being increasingly recognized as a complicated matter influenced by multiple factors, including: an understanding of the disease burden, relevance of vaccine serotypes, registration systems, local and international regulations and policies, availability of supply, delivery infrastructure, political will and financing. Although “patents as a barrier to access” is commonly cited, in fact, the multiplicity of factors preventing ready access dwarfs any potential influence by any existing patent. The vaccine industry, global or national, that supplies vaccines to the developing world has evolved over the past 20 years supported in large part by the WHO system for Pre Qualification. The result is a divergence of manufacturers able to supply vaccines and a divergence of vaccine availability. The challenges for the “older vaccines” are fairly well understood and being dissected and addressed by civil society and public private partnerships, e.g., GAVI Alliance; the challenges for introducing the critically needed newer vaccines remain poorly understood. Innovative solutions will be needed to reduce the time lag for introducing the newer vaccines – those that will be able to address the disease burden of the developing world, where the disease is disproportionately affecting the poorest populations of our society.