

Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute Factsheet

About Us

Aligned with the vision of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and guided by the belief that all lives have equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute (Gates MRI) is a non-profit biotech organization focused on accelerating the product development timeline for diseases that disproportionately affect the world's poorest populations. The Gates MRI's goals are to eradicate malaria, accelerate the end of the tuberculosis epidemic, and end diarrheal deaths in children, which combined cause five deaths every minute.¹

Our Focus Areas

Malaria

Malaria occurs in nearly 100 countries worldwide, exacting a huge toll on human health and imposing a heavy social and economic burden in developing countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Every two minutes, a child under five dies of malaria.²

Tuberculosis

While effective diagnosis and treatment has saved millions of lives, TB remains the leading cause of death from infectious disease worldwide. Every day, approximately 4,600 people die of TB.³

Enteric and Diarrheal Diseases

Enteric and diarrheal diseases are a major cause of death for children in the developing world; children who survive face the likelihood of repeated infections by gut pathogens in the early years of their life, which can lead to serious, lifelong health problems. Every year, more than 500,000 children under 5 die of diarrhea.⁴

Our Approach

To fight these diseases, our focus is on **translational medicine**—the process that evaluates promising scientific discoveries and translates them into potentially viable medical products. This is the most complex stage of development—often referred to as the “valley of death”— as approximately 90% of biomedical discoveries fail before making it to market.⁵

The Gates MRI aims to capitalize on recent innovations in medical research, such as more rigorous approaches to quantitative science, to identify candidates for drug therapies, vaccines, diagnostics, and medical devices that will help us fight diseases that disproportionately affect the world's poorest people.

Through our [global access](#) and [open access](#) policies, we will share our learnings and innovations in translational medicine with the research and development community.

Fast Facts

- **Launched:** January 2018
- **Location:** Cambridge, MA (headquarters)
- **CEO:** Dr. Penny Heaton
- **Structure:** Non-profit biotech; Subsidiary of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

¹ WHO Diarrhoeal disease fact sheet, updated May 2017; WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2017; WHO Malaria Policy and Advisory Committee Meeting Report 2018

² WHO Malaria Policy and Advisory Committee Meeting Report 2018

³ WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2017

⁴ WHO Diarrhoeal disease fact sheet, updated May 2017

⁵ BIO, Biomedtracker, and Amplion Study on Clinical Development Success Rates 2006-2015

Our Partners

Focused on translating innovative discoveries and inventions into promising products and tools, the Gates MRI will collaborate with foundation product development partners, academia, pharmaceutical & biotech companies, low/middle income country (L/MIC) manufacturers, and non-profit organizations on upstream and downstream activities.