

PUBLIC HEALTH GROUPS LAUNCH GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

AGAINST ABBOTT LABS' MONOPOLY ON CRITICAL AIDS MEDICINE

Public Health Groups Launch Global Campaign Against Abbott Labs' Monopoly on Critical AIDS Medicine

Groups Seek Generic Competition for Abbott's Patented Lifesaving Treatments

“Freeing these drugs for competition and co-formulation could save countless lives,” said Peter Maybarduk, director of the Global Access to Medicines Program at Public Citizen. “These medicines can be manufactured cheaply where patent barriers can be overcome. Licensing and competition could spur the development of new and improved ritonavir-based combination treatments against HIV/AIDS. If patent holders and the pharmaceutical industry will not negotiate, then health advocates will pursue compulsory measures to break their monopolies on lifesaving medicines.”

“Acting in concert around the world, we will be better able to fight Abbott's abuses,” said Luz Marina Umbasia, a lawyer who works on behalf of Colombian treatment groups. “This day of action marks our campaign's beginning. We will be expanding; working for access and open competition for more medicines and with allies in new countries as we move forward.”

November

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“The high cost of patented medicines is a major strain on our health systems,” said Sindi Putri, a treatment advocate in Indonesia. “This global day of action will launch competition campaigns in many countries, so we can work together for access.”

For more information and to read the official press release visit:

<http://www.citizen.org/Kaletra-campaign>