



TATA TRUSTS

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Tata Trusts support the creation of the Open Source Pharma Foundation

~ *Linux for drugs* ~

Germany – Seeking to create a world of affordable medicine for all, Tata Trusts has announced their support for the creation of the Open Source Pharma Foundation (OSPF) at OSP2, the 2nd Annual Global Open Source Pharma conference. Held at Castle Rauischholzhausen in Germany on Sept 01 to 03, 2015, the OSP conference brought together researchers, NGOs, industry professionals, philanthropists and entrepreneurs. In addition to Tata Trusts, the conference included participants from Médecins Sans Frontières, Open Source Drug Discovery (OSDD), Sanofi Aventis, the European and Developing Country Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), Open Source Malaria, the Open Society Foundations, the Structural Genomics Consortium, INSERM, Oxford University, Philipps-University Marburg, Paris Descartes University, McGill University, FasterCures - a center of the Milken Institute, Transparency Life Sciences, Taros Chemicals, Center for Research and Interdisciplinarity (CRI), Germany's House of Pharma, Gesmer Updegrove LLP, Cures within Reach, Medicines for Malaria Venture, and the Foundation for Neglected Disease Research, and has previously included participants from the WHO/TDR, other large pharmaceutical companies, and several national governments. In four words, Open Source Pharma is "affordable medicine for all." In three words: "Linux for drugs."

Open Source Pharma (OSP) is a concept inspired by the Linux model of operation. Adapted to tackling important public health challenges, it hopes to catalyze radical change in the way we do medical R&D and deliver better and more affordable innovation quicker and cheaper to patients. In brief, crowdsourced, computer-driven drug discovery; IT-enabled clinical trials with open data; and generics manufacture. This year's conference was a follow-up to the first global Open Source Pharma Conference, held at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, Lake Como, Italy in 2014, where participants adopted a joint mission statement for the movement.

Jaykumar Menon, Convener, Open Source Pharma Foundation, said, "Our vision is to provide affordable medicine for all. We aim to support a growing open source pharma movement that includes existing initiatives to create a comprehensive and alternative open source pharmaceutical system driven by principles of openness, patient need, and affordability. It will systematically address bottlenecks in the pharmaceutical development pipeline by applying open source techniques wherever applicable. This covers all stages, from discovery to development, manufacturing, distribution, and use. Open Source

Pharma bends the energies of the universe towards bugs that affect billions. With enough eyes, all bugs are shallow.”

In India, the Open Source Pharma Foundation’s initial projects include India’s first Product Development Partnership (PDP), led by Dr TanjoreBalganesh, the former head of Astra Zeneca India, and will focus on the rapid development of breakthrough medicines, including renewed efforts to develop effective therapies to roll back the tuberculosis epidemic, which kills nearly 1.5 million patients a year. Other activities include public outreach, education initiatives, and global crowdsourced science. Advisory Board members include Bernard Munos (FasterCures/Forbes blogger), Matthew Todd (University of Sydney/Founder of Open Source Malaria).

Ganesh Neelam, Development Manager, Tata Trusts said, “Tata Trusts shares the vision to deliver affordable medicines for patients across the world and especially in developing countries. We are confident that within five years, our co-partnership with the Open Source Pharma Foundation will enable innovative breakthroughs in cost effectively treating the most pressing diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria. We have been one of the first supporters of this initiative and are fully committed to making a real difference in this area.”

About Tata Trusts

Tata Trusts are amongst India's oldest, non-sectarian philanthropic organisations. Tata Trusts seek to be catalysts in development through giving grants to institutions in the areas of Natural Resources Management, Rural Livelihoods, Urban Livelihoods & Poverty, Education, Enhancing Civil Society and Governance, Health, and Media Arts, Crafts and Culture.

<http://tatatrusters.org/>

http://srtt.org/news/events/open_source_pharma.htm

About the Open Source Pharma Foundation

With operations commencing in late 2015, the Open Source Pharma Foundation seeks to support an alternative comprehensive, open source pharmaceutical innovation model driven by principles of openness, patient needs, and affordability. <http://opensourcepharma.net/>

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