

GSK tackles tropical disease with new facility

Chennai: GlaxoSmithKline's has announced plans to build a new manufacturing production line in India that will transform the progress towards helping to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) by 2020. The new facility, to be built in Nashik, is expected to deliver an additional 300 million treatments per year for what is on track to be the largest drug donation programme in global pharmaceutical industry history. Production will begin in late 2008 and will double GSK's current global albendazole capacity. GSK will invest nearly £200,000 in the facility as well as converting existing equipment to produce the tablets for donation. In addition to potentially saving the Indian health system an estimated \$30m in treatment costs each year this dramatic increase in capacity will improve the lives of over 550 million people in India who live at risk of developing this debilitating condition.

Worldwide more than 1.3 billion people live at risk of disability and disfigurement caused by LF, one-third of those at risk live in India. The cost to the Indian economy is estimated to exceed US\$840m* every year due to treatment costs, reduced working time and lost productivity