



## Roche Position on Working with Patient Groups

### Interactions with Patient Groups – Integrity and Transparency

Pharmaceutical companies are increasingly partnering with patient groups on projects ranging from disease awareness campaigns to clinical trial design and implementation. Different stakeholders, e.g. governments, the public and the media, are calling for integrity and transparency in terms of how the industry interacts with these groups, including the provision of financial and in-kind support. Roche understands and fully supports the request for integrity and the need for public transparency and consistently high standards of conduct in any interaction with patient groups.

### Value added by Patient Groups

Patient groups provide patients with support and information on how to live with their disease or condition, represent patient views and campaign for change on issues that affect patients' lives. Some carry out vital research into the causes and potential treatments for specific conditions. Patient groups play also a crucial role by safeguarding the rights of patients. Patient groups offer Roche valuable insights that influence our work around the world and across therapeutic areas – from drug development through regulatory approval and reimbursement into product launch and marketing.

### Roche's Vision and Position

Roche's commitment to patients is demonstrated in many ways throughout the Roche Group and is fundamental to what we believe to be Roche's most significant contribution to society: to create, produce and market innovative solutions of high quality for unmet medical needs. Hence, Roche and patient groups share a common vision to improve patient's access to innovative treatments and services. Roche is convinced that an open dialogue and transparent exchange of information among all the stakeholders in the healthcare community is vital to advancing access and healthcare delivery to patients. Building and sustaining relationships with patient groups is an efficient way for Roche to come up to its patient commitment and its commitment and responsibility to society as a whole.

Roche works with a wide range of patient groups in a variety of different disease areas, such as oncology, virology, inflammatory diseases, metabolic diseases and diseases of the central nervous system as well as in the area of diagnostics technologies. Our idea of innovation in healthcare centers on patient needs and benefits. Best placed to identify patients' needs are the patients themselves supported by their doctors, families or carers. Therefore, patient groups are important partners for Roche. Interacting with patient groups enables Roche to learn about unmet patient needs; such valuable information will guide us in the development of new medicines. Our aim is to support the voice of patients and to foster a constructive healthcare debate for all stakeholders. As part of its social responsibility Roche is prepared and willing to provide supportive services to patient groups and by acting accordingly to satisfy corresponding legitimate requests and needs.



Roche stipulates In its Corporate Principles<sup>1</sup> that a prime objective of Roche is to meet the patients' needs for high quality products and services. This implies identifying and solving their problems and anticipating their future needs by maintaining close contacts with them and listening to what they say. Roche's commitment includes full respect for patient's individual rights, including, but not limited to, the protection of personal data. Roche is committed to working with patient groups at the highest levels of ethical standards. Key principles of our work with patient groups are integrity, transparency, trust and mutual respect. We enter into relationships committed to sustaining a long-term working relationship, which also reinforces the credibility and independence of patient groups. Roche strives to provide patient groups with balanced, accurate and easy-to-understand scientific information about its available medicines and services. Such information shall not encourage patients to ask their health professionals to prescribe a specific product. Furthermore, Roche does not ask or encourage patient groups to promote its products and services. For transparency reasons, Roche is prepared to disclose on its website the names of patient groups that have received funding or significant non-monetary support from Roche; the list will be updated at the beginning of each year.

## Good Practice Guidelines

In line with our ongoing commitment to the values as set forth in the Roche Corporate Principles, the Roche Corporate Executive Committee has based on a proposal made by the Corporate Sustainability Committee adopted Good Practice Guidelines that further specify the terms and conditions for Roche's working with patient groups; said Good Practice Guidelines have to be applied by all Roche companies and all third parties, e.g. agencies, which are working on behalf of Roche. Finally, Roche is committed to continuous improvement by benchmarking the Good Practice Guidelines against best practice and, if appropriate, to amend them.

*This Position Paper was approved by the Corporate Sustainability Committee on April 29, 2009 and entered into force the same day.*

---

<sup>1</sup> The latest version of the Roche Corporate Principles can be consulted at:  
[http://www.roche.com/corporate\\_principles\\_in\\_eight\\_languages.pdf](http://www.roche.com/corporate_principles_in_eight_languages.pdf)