

**Galderma response re alleged advocacy campaign by Innovative Pharmaceutical Association of South Africa (IPASA) opposing South Africa's efforts to introduce intellectual property reforms aimed at increasing access to essential medicine:**

**19 February 2014**

*Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Galderma to respond to the following items:*

- "South African pharma firms accused of delaying patents law reforms", Guardian [UK], 17 January 2014  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/17/south-african-pharma-accused-delay-patents-law-reform>
- "New leaked Merck missive reveals deep drug, medical device company opposition to South African patent reforms", KEI, 20 January 2014  
<http://keionline.org/node/1908>
- "'Genocidal' drug patent plot angers doctors, rights groups"  
<http://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2014/01/17/genocidal-drug-patent-plot-outrages-doctors-rights-groups>
- "Leaked pharmagate emails prove big pharma involvement in scandal"  
<http://www.tac.org.za/news/leaked-pharmagate-emails-prove-big-pharma-involvement-scandal>
- "TAC, Section27 and MSF react to Pharmagate"  
<http://www.fixthepatentlaws.org/?p=823>

**Comment to Business & Human Rights Resource Centre by Galderma re alleged advocacy campaign by Innovative Pharmaceutical Association of South Africa (IPASA) to oppose South Africa's efforts to introduce intellectual property reforms aimed at increasing access to essential medicine:**

Galderma Laboratories SA (PTY) LTD would like to confirm that the "lobbying effort" referred to in this email below which I have received from the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, and the articles therein, relate to a proposal that was received by IPASA from an external PR agency. There is a robust process to be followed, and as stated by IPASA, this was undertaken and the PR proposal referred to was rejected. The news reports contained in the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre email are thus inaccurate in attributing the implementation of this lobbying strategy to IPASA.

The Draft South African National Policy on Intellectual Property is a matter of vital importance to the future of the healthcare sector and indeed to all other innovative industries in South Africa. Galderma has, through its membership in IPASA, participated in the South African Department of Trade and Industry's public consultation process and made a comprehensive submission to the Department when the Draft National Policy on IP was published for comment. IPASA indicated support for the Government initiative to formulate a coherent and inclusive national policy on IP. Furthermore, the Association endorsed and supported many of the policy statements and policy recommendations put forward in the draft IP Policy document. IPASA, Galderma and its other members remain firmly committed

to collaborating with the South African Government and, in particular, the South African Department of Health to improve access to medicines and thereby the health of the nation.

I attach the formal response already provided by IPASA on all members behalf.