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## Background

The ‘Medicines Chest’ is an initiative by the ECNP to provide access for researchers to pharmacological tools in order to support human experimental medicine studies. This initiative is viewed as particularly important given the recent reduction of research by pharmaceutical companies in this field. The most attractive compounds for inclusion in the Medicines Chest are those that could readily be employed in human studies, for example, compounds that have been shelved by pharmaceutical companies but for which clinical safety packages and possibly drug substance are available. Drug substance is not essential, as long as the regulatory documents are available to allow compound to be synthesized to the appropriate specification for use in a human study. If such information is available it is possible to get the compound synthesized by a Contract Manufacturing organisation and the cost can be covered in a grant application.

## Status

A summary of the current stage of discussions around compounds is presented below. The compounds are categorised according to their likelihood to enter the medicines chest as 1) already in the chest 2) those likely to enter the chest in the near future (probables) and 3) those which are the subject of current discussion (possibles).

	Compound	Mechanism
<b>In the chest</b>	Befiradol	5HT1a agonist with high affinity and selectivity
	Emapunil	Translocator protein agonist (physiological studies only)
	ADX10061	Dopamine D1 antagonist
	Dipraglurant	mGluR5 negative allosteric modulator
		GABA-B receptor positive allosteric modulator
	Bavisant	Histamine H3 antagonist
	JNJ- 18038683	5HT7 antagonist
	Idazoxan	A2 adrenoceptor agonist (physiological studies only)
<b>Probables</b>	Volinanserin (MDL100907)	5-HT <sub>2A</sub> antagonist

## Other Compounds

In some cases, companies have not wanted to put compounds into the chest, but have pointed out that they have their own initiatives for academics to access clinical stage compounds. In this regard, we would draw your attention to:

- The AstraZeneca ‘clinical Compound Bank’ <http://openinnovation.astrazeneca.com/what-we-offer/clinical-compound-bank/>

- An initiative by the Medical Research Council in the UK (open to UK-based academics only) as described in [http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/14-07-22/Pharma\\_pact\\_with\\_MRC\\_to\\_repurpose\\_stalled\\_compounds.aspx](http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/14-07-22/Pharma_pact_with_MRC_to_repurpose_stalled_compounds.aspx)
- GSK will make certain compounds available on direct application by the academic to the company.

### **Contracts**

In order to facilitate contractual arrangements between the pharmaceutical company and academic institution, a number of sample contracts are available. Agreement on one of these templates, or a similar version preferred by the company, will be reached when a compound enters the medicines chest and can subsequently be used by other researchers when accessing the compound.

### **Interaction with Industry bodies**

The medicines chest initiative has been discussed with the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) and the Medical Research Council (MRC). We are collaborating with the ECNP Experimental Medicines Network to potentially develop an application for funding to IMI2, for projects using Medicines Chest compounds in Experimental Medicines Network clinical studies.

### **Funding opportunities**

Once a compound is in the medicines chest, the ECNP encourages grant proposals relating to it from its members. Clearly a number of different grant-providing bodies can be approached but we have spoken with the UK Medical Research Council who have said they would be willing to receive applications based on compounds in the chest. Also, the Stanley Medical Research Institute (SMRI) have registered interest in receiving applications relating to this initiative.

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