

Mr Pascal Soriot  
AstraZeneca PLC  
1 Francis Crick Avenue  
Cambridge Biomedical Campus  
Cambridge CB2 0AA

28th May 2020

Dear Mr Soriot,

As patients and the families of people affected by COVID19, health workers, and public health campaigners, we were interested to hear on the BBC Andrew Marr show last weekend that you want to offer “fair and equitable access to everyone around the world” to the potential vaccine for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that you are developing with the Jenner Institute/ Oxford University. We believe that to achieve this, there should be no pharmaceutical monopolies during a pandemic and patents should never prevent patients getting affordable access to important diagnostics, medicines or vaccines.

We are writing this open letter to ask urgent questions about the licence agreement between AstraZeneca and the Jenner Institute/Oxford University.

We kindly ask that you please respond to the following questions:

1. Will you make the full terms of the licence agreement with the Jenner Institute/ Oxford University public, as has been normalised through the global public health standards set by the Medicines Patent Pool?
2. Can you please provide information on the patents related to the ChAdOx technologies, such as PCT application numbers and information about patent applications at national patent offices and the EPO?
3. Can you please confirm what safeguards have been included in the agreement to guarantee access and affordability for the NHS and for the billions across the world, especially in developing countries, whose lives and livelihoods are threatened?
4. Your interview on the BBC Andrew Marr show also referred to setting up supply chains in other regions. Can you confirm that the agreement with the Jenner Institute /Oxford University is a non-exclusive licence?
5. What efforts have been made to ensure that non-patent based monopoly protections, such as regulatory exclusivities, are not enforced on this vaccine?
6. Will you also licence your vaccine to the Medicines Patent Pool, which has expanded its remit to help ensure accelerated access to COVID19 technologies around the world, ahead of the anticipated creation of a WHO COVID19 Technologies Pool, as proposed by Costa Rica and supported by countries around the world including Europe?
7. Will you also please support the Open COVID pledge (<https://opencovidpledge.org/license/>), and sign on?

8. You have stated that you will price the vaccine at cost during the pandemic. Will you make public all your costs to allow independent verification of this claim?

9. Will you have full market monopoly and total control over the price of the vaccine after the declared pandemic is over?

This vaccine discovery has largely been financed with public funds and we believe that that taxpayer investment should lead to public health outcomes that help to end this pandemic. Pharmaceutical monopolies have no place during a global pandemic.

Thank you for the important work you continue to do to develop this vaccine. We hope you will appreciate and share the urgency of our request for transparency and assurance on the means of getting this vaccine to all who need it if it is proven to be effective.

We look forward to hearing your response.

Yours,

Anne MacLean-Chang  
Breast cancer patient and partner to an NHS worker

Darlaine Honey  
Breast cancer and COVID patient

Chris Burn  
Parent of a child with cystic fibrosis

Robert Finlay  
Parent of a child with cystic fibrosis

Rob Long  
Parent of a child with cystic fibrosis

Diarmaid McDonald  
Lead Organiser, Just Treatment

Nick Dearden  
Director, Global Justice Now

Mike Podmore  
Director, STOPAIDS

Dr Will Nutland Director,  
The Love Tank

Anthony Johnson  
Lead Organiser, Nurses United and Registered Nurse

Sarai Keestra  
Universities Allied for Essential Medicines UK, Oxford Chapter