Just One Drop: A Documentary Film about Homeopathy. The Mystery. The History. The Promise

By Producer/Director Laura Chiten – Premiere April 2017

Homeopathy is a medicine that people love, or people love to hate. Critics love to attack it. It’s been called everything from ‘pseudo-science’ to ‘the ultimate fake medicine’. But what about all the people who have been helped by this alleged ‘fake’ form of medicine? Just One Drop takes us on the journey of homeopathy, a system of medicine that is used by more than 200 million people on Earth.

Just One Drop tells a no-holds-barred look at the most controversial form of medicine ever invented. Homeopathy treats the entire person, not just the disease. It’s a specific form of medicine that uses minute doses of a highly diluted substance that stimulates the body to cure itself. It is this tiny dose that causes the most controversy. Researchers believe there is a release of energy in water that becomes mysteriously dynamic. Others think it is purely psychological or worse, a form of deception or quackery. Yet millions claim homeopathy cures even though there is not yet a satisfying scientific explanation. It remains a mystery.

Statement by Laura Chiten

I am not a homeopath. I have not had a miraculous cure from homeopathy (although my dog did many times). So why have I persisted with this film? Because I really believe it is a David and Goliath story. My entire career I have fought for the underdog. This is something that has animated my being for as long as I can remember.

In my first profession, I was a sign language interpreter where I was, literally, giving deaf people a voice. Now that I am a filmmaker, I have continued that thread.

I really believe that homeopathy has been maligned and suppressed for 200 years. All I am trying to do with this film, Just One Drop, is give homeopathy a voice, a voice that continues to be misinterpreted and misrepresented.

Host a Screening

Just One Drop is a provocative film created to inspire dialogue on this controversial topic. It is made to be shown in a crowd—a wonderful tool to educate your community, engage with potential clients and people in the medical community and answer questions from sceptics. Use this film to tell your story, share information, clarify misconceptions, confront myths and get a buzz going about homeopathy. See the Web site for an application form for hosting a screening.

Source: http://www.justonedroffilm.com; accessed 19 April 2017

The First Access to Vaccines Index

News Release: New Access to Vaccines Index Reveals First Landscape of Vaccine Company Actions to Improve Immunisation Coverage

Research and Development: Companies at Work on Innovation

Vaccine companies are working on 89 vaccine R&D projects for 35 diseases. The most attention is given to pneumococcal disease, human papillomavirus and seasonal influenza. This focus largely corresponds to the presence of commercial incentives. A third of the projects in company pipelines target one of the 12 diseases relevant to the index for which no vaccine yet exists, including Ebola and HIV, as well as Escherichia coli, Clostridium difficile and bacteria from the Streptococcus and Staphylococcus families.

Once a vaccine has been rolled out in real-world settings, it becomes clear whether further R&D is required to improve or adapt it. Adaptations account for almost half of the industry’s vaccine R&D pipeline. The most common adaptation is to expand the range of diseases (or strains) that a vaccine provides protection from. Also common are projects that aim to make vaccines more resilient to temperature fluctuations—an important characteristic for countries where refrigeration is not always an option.

For many diseases in scope, vaccines do not promise significant profits—particularly for diseases such as leprosy or human monkeypox that predominantly affect populations in low- and middle-income countries. For these diseases, our research tells us that alternative incentives are likely necessary to encourage companies to develop new vaccines—such
as public-private partnerships for vaccine R&D, or commitments to purchase new vaccines in bulk’, says Jayasree K. Iyer.

### UN Human Rights Experts Call for Global Treaty to Regulate Dangerous Pesticides

7 March 2017—Two United Nations (UN) human rights experts are calling for a comprehensive new global treaty to regulate and phase out the use of dangerous pesticides in farming, and move toward sustainable agricultural practices.

‘Excessive use of pesticides is very dangerous to human health, to the environment and it is misleading to claim they are vital to ensuring food security’, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Hilal Elver, and the Special Rapporteur on Toxics, Baskut Tuncak, said in a joint statement to the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The Special Rapporteurs pointed to research showing that pesticides were responsible for an estimated 200,000 acute poisoning deaths each year. Some 99% of fatalities occurred in developing countries where health, safety and environmental regulations were weaker.

Chronic exposure to pesticides has been linked to cancer, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, hormone disruption, developmental disorders and sterility. Farmers and agricultural workers, communities living near plantations, indigenous communities and pregnant women and children are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and require special protections.

The experts particularly emphasised the obligation of states to protect the rights of children from hazardous pesticides, also warning that certain pesticides can persist in the environment for decades and pose a threat to the entire ecological system on which food production depends.

While acknowledging that certain international treaties currently offer protection from the use of a few pesticides, they stressed that a global treaty to regulate the vast majority of them throughout their life cycle does not yet exist, leaving a critical gap in the human rights protection framework.

They also emphasised that ‘Without harmonised, stringent regulations on the production, sale and acceptable levels of pesticide use, the burden of the negative effects of pesticides is felt by poor and vulnerable communities in countries that have less stringent enforcement mechanisms’.

Special Rapporteurs and independent experts are appointed by the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council to examine and report back on a specific human rights theme or a country’s situation. The positions are honorary and the experts are not UN staff, nor are they paid for their work.

Source: [http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/un-human-rights-experts-call-for-global-treaty-to-regulate-dangerous-pesticides/en/](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/un-human-rights-experts-call-for-global-treaty-to-regulate-dangerous-pesticides/en/); accessed 19 April 2017.

### Unprecedented Progress against Neglected Tropical Diseases, WHO Reports

19 April 2017, Geneva—WHO reports remarkable achievements in tackling neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) since 2007. An estimated 1 billion people received treatment in 2015 alone.

‘WHO has observed record-breaking progress towards bringing ancient scourges like sleeping sickness and elephantiasis to their knees’, said WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan. ‘Over the past 10 years, millions of people have been rescued from disability and poverty, thanks to one of the most effective global partnerships in modern public health’.

The WHO report, Integrating neglected tropical diseases in global health and development, demonstrates how strong political support, generous donations of medicines and improvements in living conditions have led to sustained expansion of disease control programmes in countries where these diseases are most prevalent.

Since 2007, when a group of global partners met to agree to tackle NTDs together, a variety of local and international partners have worked alongside ministries of health in endemic countries to deliver quality-assured medicines, and provide people with care and long-term management.

In 2012, partners endorsed a WHO NTD roadmap, committing additional support and resources to eliminating 10 of the most common NTDs.

### Key Achievements

- 1 billion people treated for at least one NTD in 2015 alone.
- 556 million people received preventive treatment for lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis).
- More than 114 million people received treatment for onchocerciasis (river blindness); 62% of those requiring it.
- Only 25 human cases of Guinea-worm disease were reported in 2016, putting eradication within reach.
- Cases of human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) have been reduced from 37,000 new cases in 1999 to well less than 3,000 cases in 2015.
- Trachoma—the world’s leading infectious cause of blindness—has been eliminated as a public health problem in Mexico, Morocco and Oman. More than 185,000 trachoma patients had surgery for trichiasis worldwide and more than 56 million people received antibiotics in 2015 alone.
- Visceral leishmaniasis: in 2015, the target for elimination was achieved in 82% of sub-districts in India, 73% of sub-districts in Bangladesh and in 100% of districts in Nepal.
- Only 12 reported human deaths were attributable to rabies in the WHO Region of the Americas in 2015, bringing the region close to its target of eliminating rabies in humans by 2015.

Source: [http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/ntd-report/en/](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/ntd-report/en/); accessed 19 April 2017.