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და სოციალური დაცვის მინისტრი
MINISTER OF LABOUR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA



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John Martin
Gilead Sciences, Inc.,
362 Lakeside Drive, Foster City, CA 94404, USA

Cc: HE Sozar Subari, Minister of Corrections of Georgia

HE Richard Norland, Ambassador of the United States of America
to Georgia

HE Archil Gegeshidze, Ambassador of Georgia to the United
States of America

Dr. Amiran Gamkrelidze, Executive Director, NCDCPH

Dr. Edmond Maes, Director of US CDC Georgia Office

Dear Mr. Martin,

On behalf of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia let me use the opportunity to thank Gilead for making your new Direct Acting Antiretroviral (DAA) drugs affordable for 60 low- and middle income countries globally.

Furthermore we are grateful for your time and consideration to attend the Georgia HCV Elimination Session organized within the framework of 2014 International Liver Congress of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) in London earlier in April.

As presented at the EASL side session, Georgia has committed to designing and implementing a multi-year comprehensive Hepatitis C Elimination Plan. *For easy reference you will kindly find enclosed a briefing note on Hepatitis C national response and the way forward for Georgia.*

At the moment an advanced draft of the Elimination Plan has been elaborated by a Multi-Sectoral VCH Committee established by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs. The elimination agenda is a unique opportunity for the country to both effectively tackle the HCV epidemic and to document the 'model elimination' experience for possible further application at regional and global levels.

Success of the HCV Elimination Model will largely depend on patients access to affordable DAAs. The latter is the critical question that Georgia would like to explore with Gilead representatives.

As part of the process we would like to explore your interest and availability for a video-call with a Georgian team, or to kindly share with details of Gilead's representative for the European and Central Asia Region to reach out to.

Kindly note that the Georgian team will be represented by the Minister and Deputy Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs; Deputy Minister of Corrections (in view of the ongoing HCV treatment programme in prisons); Director of the National AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Centre, and a civil society representative.

Finally, the US Embassy to Georgia and Georgia's Embassy in the United States (copied on the current letter) have expressed their commitment to facilitate bi-lateral communication and negotiations vis-à-vis affordable Sofosbuvir price for Georgia.

Active engagement of the Diplomatic Missions stems from the decision of the USAID Administrator to nominate Georgia as one of the two priority countries for the European and Central Asian Region for Science, Technology, Innovations and Partnership (STIP) Programme and the decision of the US government to include Georgia among 12 priority countries globally for the Global Health Security implementation in 2014.

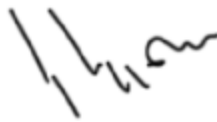
Furthermore Georgia has become an active player in the Global Health Security agenda spearheaded by the US Government to accelerate progress towards safer world and securing from infectious disease threats. Within the framework of the initiative the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs will be engaged in the White House High Level Meeting hosted by President Obama in September 2014.

We look forward to your reply and successful partnership in this historic time for HCV response within the overarching framework of the US-Georgia collaboration.

/Encl.: Annex A - Briefing Note on Hepatitis C National Response in Georgia/

With assurance of my highest consideration,

Minister



David Sergeenko