



RIGHT TO BREATHE

Cystic fibrosis modulators for every patient, everywhere!



Dr Reshma Kewalramani
Chief Executive Officer & President
Vertex Pharmaceuticals

31st July 2023

Dear Dr Kewalramani,

We, the undersigned, are clinicians, health professionals and scientists. We lead CF centres, conduct basic and clinical research, and work directly with patients and families affected by the disease. Many of us have dedicated our careers to improving the lives of those with CF.

We are united in our belief that every cystic fibrosis patient in every country has an equitable right to life and access to lifesaving CFTR modulator treatment.

We note with deep dismay, the disparity in access to modulator treatments in the global north and global south, with no low or middle income country having secured an agreement with Vertex to supply their patients with the best-in-class combination therapy, elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor (Trikafta/Kaftrio).

It is clear that Vertex's pricing strategy represents a formidable barrier to universal access to treatment, and despite the wealth these medicines have generated for the company, little visible effort has been invested by Vertex to help patients in countries unable to afford treatment.

We have seen first hand the devastating and painful suffering cystic fibrosis inflicts on patients who are unable to access effective treatment. Therefore we celebrate the achievements of all those involved in the development of these life changing medications. However, we cannot, in all conscience, accept that the benefits of these drugs are only felt by those lucky enough to be born in a country that can afford to pay Vertex's prices.

We therefore fully endorse all efforts to secure access for every patient around the world, including the Right to Breathe campaign, and urge Vertex to urgently take all necessary steps to ensure everyone has access, including dramatically lowering their prices and publishing a comprehensive, sustainable and transparent global access strategy as soon as possible.

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