RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC OF FALSIFIED MEDICINES

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A Coordinated Response to the Pandemic of Falsified Medicines is Urgently Needed

**Pandemic**: “An epidemic occurring over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries, and usually affecting a large number of people”

**CURRENT OBSTACLES:**

- **Definitions**: Lack of consensus on definitions
- **Technology**: Paucity of reliable and scalable technology to detect fakes before they reach patients
- **Leadership and accountability**: Low priority on national and international public health response agendas
- **Deficient regulatory and manufacturing systems**: Focus on China (21% reports) and India (54% reports)
IF THIS PANDEMIC GOES UNCHECKED THE RESULTS COULD BE DEVASTATING FOR PROGRESS MADE IN GLOBAL HEALTH

- MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY
- FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES
- LOSS OF TRUST
- DRUG RESISTANCE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO BUILD A COORDINATED GLOBAL RESPONSE TO FALSIFIED MEDICINES

- **Build a research and technology agenda** with investments to compare and scale the best technologies for detection.
- **Conduct surveillance and actively track the epidemiology** (with centralized data collection) in all countries at risk.
- **Develop an active global leadership organization**
- **Create national policies and an international convention** providing a legal and institutional framework for regulatory action.
This paper was completed in collaboration with other co-authors: Amir Attaran, John P. Clark, M. Julia Culzoni, Facundo M. Fernandez, James E. Herrington, Megan Kendall, Paul N. Newton, and Joel G. Breman*