

## WHO receives, calls for aid in avian flu fight in same week

Roche's donation of an additional two million treatment courses of oseltamivir for use in developing countries to fight avian influenza in humans has been welcomed by WHO.<sup>1</sup>

The donation is in addition to last year's donation of three million treatment courses, which has been stored centrally and earmarked for exclusive use at the site of a pandemic influenza outbreak. The latest donation will be stored at different regional locations for use in countries unable to afford the drug, and most likely to be affected by the disease.

Separately, WHO has called on the world's governments for funding in the amount of \$US1.5 billion to fight a threatened pandemic of avian influenza, states *Marketletter: Pharma News Daily*.<sup>2</sup>

Pledges so far include \$US500 million from the World Bank, \$US155 million from Japan and almost \$US97 million from the EU: a pledge of at least \$US250 million is being considered by the US.

1. World Health Organization. Additional two million treatment courses of oseltamivir donated to WHO to help countries which cannot afford the treatment. Media Release : 17 Jan 2006. Available from: URL: <http://www.who.int>.

2. WHO wants \$1.5bn for avian flu. *Marketletter: Pharma News Daily* : [1 page], 2006. Available from: URL: <http://news.marketletter.com>.