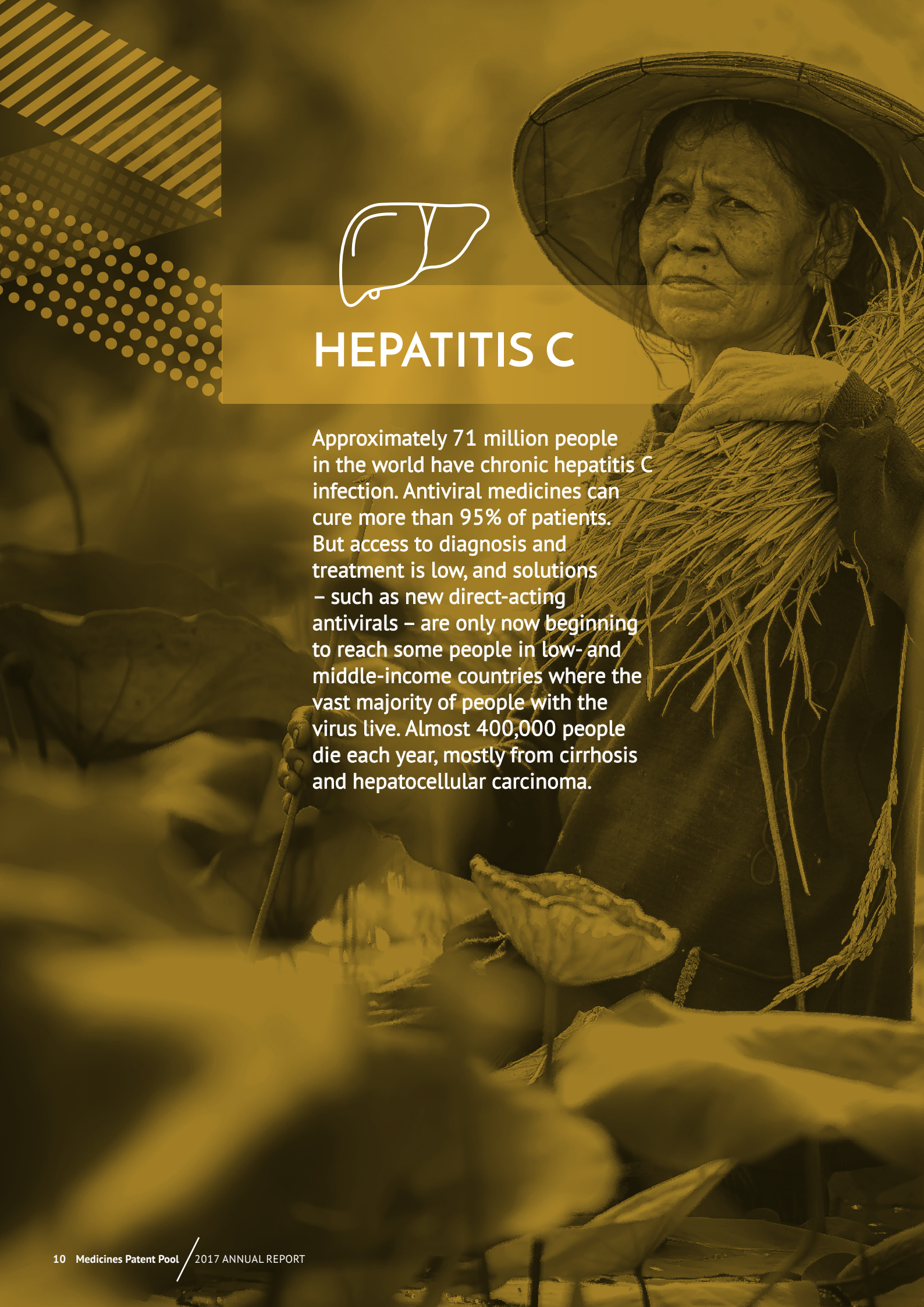
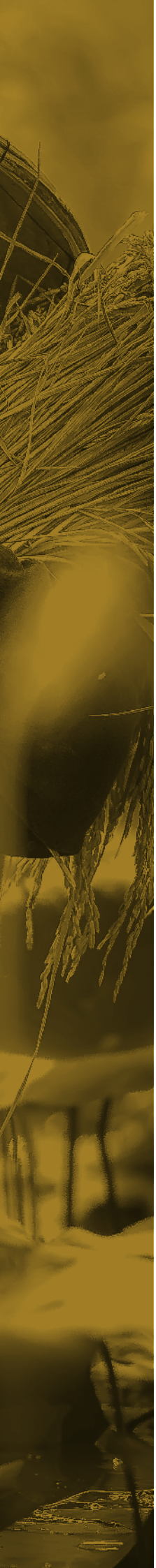


HEPATITIS C

Approximately 71 million people in the world have chronic hepatitis C infection. Antiviral medicines can cure more than 95% of patients. But access to diagnosis and treatment is low, and solutions – such as new direct-acting antivirals – are only now beginning to reach some people in low- and middle-income countries where the vast majority of people with the virus live. Almost 400,000 people die each year, mostly from cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma.



The MPP's Role in Improving Hepatitis C Treatment Access

The MPP signed its first licensing agreement in hepatitis C with Bristol-Myers Squibb for the direct-acting antiviral daclatasvir in 2015. Ten companies are currently developing daclatasivr, including a fixed-dose combination of daclatasvir and sofosbuvir, and two companies have filed for regulatory approval.

Agreement with Pharco Pharmaceuticals

The MPP signed a licence and technology transfer agreement with Egyptian company Pharco Pharmaceuticals for hepatitis C drug candidate ravidasvir, a direct-acting antiviral with the potential of working across all six hepatitis C genotypes.

The agreement seeks to improve health options for hepatitis C patients in low- and middle-income countries, including high prevalence nations such as Russia, Ukraine, Egypt and Iran. The licence with Pharco also expanded the geographical scope of another licence signed by Presidio, the original developer of ravidasvir and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DND*i*) in 2016. Combined, the MPP and DND*i* agreements could potentially benefit countries where 85.3% of people live with hepatitis C.

World Hepatitis Summit

At a World Hepatitis Summit side meeting hosted by MPP's funder Unitaid in November, MPP team members addressed a range of topics on the foundation's role in hepatitis C. These included: *How voluntary licences could facilitate access to hepatitis C treatment, Options for countries with access to generic hepatitis medicines, Modelling and cost effectiveness for global scale up* and *Delivering high quality hepatitis services.*

"Chronic hepatitis C affects approximately 71 million people globally, with Egypt suffering from one of the highest burdens. Ravidasvir, in combination with other hepatitis C treatments, could support new national as well as global goals to eliminate the virus."

Sherine Helmy, CEO of Pharco Pharmaceuticals.