

2019 Impact Report

Putting the drug patent problem on the map

We lifted the curtain on patent games that unjustly prolong medicine monopolies

This year, our hard-hitting investigations brought the drug patent problem to light in the U.S., placing it front and center on the drug pricing agenda. Building on the momentum from our landmark investigative series “Overpatented, Overpriced,” I-MAK’s research continued to be a crucial resource for those seeking solutions to the growing medicines crisis. Our findings even prompted action in Congress, with the introduction of four bipartisan, patent-related bills.



The New York Times
It's Time for Pharmaceutical Companies to Have Their Tobacco Moment

“According to the Initiative for Medicine and Knowledge...”

TOP 12 GROSSING DRUGS

Overpatented, Overpriced:

125 PATENTS

YOUR MONEY YOUR LIFE

BEST-SELLING DRUG COSTS FIVE TIMES MORE

Our U.S. investigations changed the national conversation

7 congressional hearings
held drugmakers accountable
using I-MAK’s research

45 media stories
cited I-MAK’s research
including *The New York Times*,
NBC News, and *Forbes*

2 million people
learned about the link
between overpatenting
and high drug pricing

Bringing patent games to light for global audiences



We brought the issue of patent reform to a wider audience than ever this year. Speaking on high-profile stages across the globe like TED Women, Nexus Global, IDEAfest, and the Bipartisan Policy Council, we demystified the connection between patents and drug prices. As we introduced our vision for a reimagined system, we also had an eye to the future. I-MAK is at the forefront of elevating the conversation around patents for artificial intelligence and gene editing, highlighting the risks patents pose to patient data and privacy.

Founders' letter:

When I-MAK began working in the United States in 2016 after a decade litigating against unchecked patents in the Global South, we knew it would be an uphill battle. America is the birthplace of the market-based medicines system and has exported its version of the patent system worldwide. To achieve the reforms that we believe are necessary to tackle the inequities inherent in this system, we knew we had to change the narrative around patents in the U.S.

What we didn't expect was for those efforts to start bearing fruit so soon. In 2019, our education and outreach efforts made patents part of the drug pricing conversation in ways we could have hardly imagined. There's a lot more work to do, but we're excited to see new movement by the U.S. Congress to address the drug patent problem and we're eager to build on this momentum.

This was a year to firmly establish the connection between patents and pricing. We spoke at dozens of high-profile events globally and in the U.S. to sound the alarm about the growing drug affordability crisis and to lift up the stories of those most impacted. These gut-wrenching stories—from people who are incarcerated, seniors, single mothers, and so many others who struggle to afford treatment—are what compel us to fight for a more just medicines system.

We hope you'll join us.



Priti Krishtel & Tahir Amin

Co-Founders / Co-Executive Directors

Finances:

OPERATING SUPPORT & REVENUE SOURCES

Contributions and Grants \$720,139
Program Service Revenue \$3,882

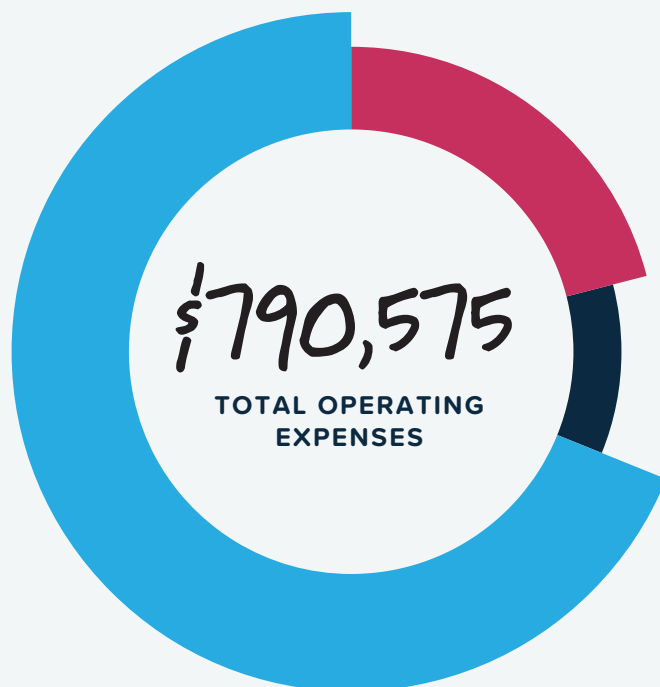
Total operating support and revenue \$724,021

PROGRAM & OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services \$546,423 **69%**
General and Administrative \$169,305 **21%**
Development and Fundraising \$74,847 **9%**

Total assets \$1,213,804
Total liabilities \$50,361

Net assets or fund balances \$1,163,443



We must solve the drug patent problem

Join us at i-mak.org