GALVmed is a not-for-profit global alliance of public, private and government partners. By making livestock vaccines, diagnostics and medicines accessible and affordable to the millions for whom livestock is a lifeline, GALVmed is protecting livestock and improving human lives. It is currently funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK Government’s Department for International Development (DFID).

GALVmed and partners welcome a key donor

The co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Mr Bill Gates visited GALVmed (the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines) in Edinburgh on Tuesday 29th July to discuss progress in the development of livestock vaccines and medicines for some of the 900 million people who rely on livestock to pay for their daily needs.

Accompanied by senior staff from the Gates Foundation, Mr Gates spent two and a half hours in high level technical discussion with representatives of GALVmed and its partners who are international experts in livestock health, research, markets and science. The meeting was held in the Moredun Research Institute’s premises in Pentlands Science Park near Penicuik.

GALVmed Chairman, Professor Peter Wells greeting Mr Bill Gates as Professor Julie Fitzpatrick, Scientific Director of the Moredun Research Institute and GALVmed CEO, Mr Peter Jeffries welcome Mr Gates.
Commenting on the visit, GALVmed’s Chief Executive, Peter Jeffries said:

It was a privilege and an encouragement for us to be able to welcome Bill Gates to Scotland for his first visit to GALVmed. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has helped to facilitate enormous advances in human health, dramatically reducing infant mortality and greatly enhancing the lives and wellbeing of people living in extreme poverty. Healthy livestock plays a vital role in providing income for basic healthcare, school books and nutrition for millions of the world’s poorest people.

Today’s meeting brought together some of our key partners, working together as a Global Alliance to develop affordable livestock vaccines, medicines and diagnostics. Mr Gates engaged throughout the meeting at a highly technical level, asking informed and constructively provocative questions. Mr Gates was very encouraging about the breadth and quality of work being undertaken in the livestock health arena and emphasised the importance of delivering with impact for the lives of poor people and in doing so as quickly as possible.
With its headquarters in Scotland, GALVmed works in over twenty countries, with and through over three hundred partners. GALVmed’s aim is to improve the lives of people living in poverty by helping to create sustainable supply chains of livestock health products which are affordable to poor people. Money raised through livestock and animal products pays for education and healthcare. Animals supply manure and traction to support crop production, create employment and provide business opportunities. The loss of animals through disease devastates the lives of individuals, families and communities around the world. In circumstances where poverty or the environment offer no alternatives, chickens, goats, sheep, cattle and pigs mean survival, school, clothing, trade and the dignity of choice and self-determination.
Mr Rajiv Gandhi, CEO & Managing Director, Hester Biosciences Limited in discussion with Mr Gates. Dr Jimmy Smith Director General, ILRI is shown to the left of Mr Gandhi with GALVmed’s Dr Hameed Nuru in the centre.

The Gates Foundation is one of the principal funders of not-for-profit, GALVmed. In February 2012, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a further £25 million grant to support GALVmed’s work. At the same time the UK Government’s Department for International Development (DFID) announced further support through a £6.2 million grant. The two grants, totally £31.2 million are together enabling GALVmed to implement phase two of its Protecting livestock, saving human life programme which was funded. Phase one was jointly funded by the Gates Foundation and DFID in 2008 with £14.2 million (80% from the Gates Foundation and 20% from DFID).

### Joining Mr Bill Gates for the technical meeting were:

**Dr Sam Thevasagayam**  
Deputy Director, Agriculture Development (Livestock), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**Dr Donald Nkumah**  
Senior Program Officer, Agricultural Development (Livestock Genetics), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**Professor Peter Wells**  
Chairman of Moredun Scientific; Formerly Global Head of Research & Development, Novartis Animal Health, Chair of GALVmed
Mr Peter Jeffries  
CEO, GALVmed

Dr Hameed Nuru  
Senior Director, Policy & External Affairs, GALVmed

Dr Danny Goovaerts  
Interim Director, Research & Development, GALVmed

Mr Patrick Traill  
Director, Market Development and Access, GALVmed

Dr Christie Peacock  
Chairman & Founder, Sidai Africa Ltd

Dr Mike Witty  
Tryps Consultant, Former Chairman, GALVmed

Mr Shashi Kapur  
Consultant

Mr Rajiv Gandhi  
CEO & Managing Director, Hester Biosciences Limited

Professor Marshall Lightowlers  
Principal Research Fellow, The University of Melbourne

Professor Julie Fitzpatrick  
Scientific Director, Moredun Research Institute and Chief Executive Moredun Foundation,  
Former Vice-Chair of GALVmed
Dr Jimmy Smith
Director General, ILRI

Dr Vish Nene
Director, Vaccine Biosciences (ILVAC), Program Leader, ILRI

Ms Heather Stevenson
Senior Director, Corporate Services & Finance, GALVmed

Dr Jeremy Salt
Director, Research & Development, GALVmed

Mr Neil Gammon
Director, Business Development, GALVmed

Mr Robert Parkes
Director, Human Resources, GALVmed

Dr Abdallah Twahir
Interim Director, Market Development and Access, GALVmed

Speakers at the event were:

- Mr Peter Jeffries, Chief Executive, GALVmed
- Professor Marshall Lightowlers, Principal Research Fellow, The University of Melbourne
- Dr Vish Nene, Director, Vaccine Biosciences (ILVAC) - Program Leader, ILRI
- Dr Danny Goovaerts, Interim Director, Research & Development, GALVmed
- Dr Mike Witty, African Animal Trypanosomosis Consultant, Former Chairman of GALVmed
- Mr Rajiv Gandhi, CEO & Managing Director, Hester Biosciences Limited
- Dr Christie Peacock CBE, Chairman & Founder, Sidai Africa Ltd
- Professor Peter Wells, Chairman of Moredun Scientific; Formerly Global Head of Research & Development, Novartis Animal Health, Chair of GALVmed
Mr Gates signs the Moredun Research Institute’s Visitors book on his departure, as GALVmed CEO, Mr Peter Jeffries waits to say farewell.