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Els Torreele is a researcher and advocate on Medical Innovation & Access, and Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Innovation and Public purpose (IIPP) at University College London. She has worked for over two decades at the interface of pharmaceutical R&D, global health, human rights and access to medicines, and public policy development for medical innovation for access. A bioengineer and PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the Free University Brussels (VUB), she became involved in pharmaceutical and science policy with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), including the foundation in 2003 of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases [initiative](#) (DNDi), where she led R&D projects including developing a new drug for sleeping sickness. From 2009-16, she was the director of Access to Medicines and Innovation at Open Society Foundations (OSF) in New York, after which she rejoined MSF as the Executive Director of their Access Campaign from 2017-mid 2020. She's an Honorary Science Fellow at the VUB, and author on over 40 international publications, with regular contributions to the societal debate through media and social media (@ElsTorreele).

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