

# Lambda Research Newsletter

May 2022



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## ▶ GLOBAL NEWS

### 1. University of Aberdeen study finds diabetes almost doubles risk of COVID-19 death



Researchers reviewed findings from 158 global studies to determine how COVID-19 affects people living with diabetes

A study conducted by researchers from the University of Aberdeen has found that people with diabetes are almost twice as likely to die with COVID-19, and almost three times as likely to be critically or severely ill, compared to those without the condition.

The study reviewed data from thousands of people all over the world and found that good management of the condition can mitigate against the risks. In collaboration with King's College, London, the results found that while diabetes presents a significant risk of severe illness and death with COVID-19, good control of blood sugar in patients can reduce such threats.

Source: [pharmatimes.com](http://pharmatimes.com)



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## ▶ GLOBAL NEWS

### 2. Study identifies new molecular target for cancer therapy



Researchers with The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC - James) have identified a new molecular drug target that could result in new cancer drugs with fewer side effects.

Previous studies have shown that vascular endothelial growth factor-A (VEGF-A) -- a potent cytokine (signaling protein) - and dopamine (a neurotransmitter/neurohormone) --play essential roles in many physiological and pathological functions. In this new laboratory study, Dr. Sujit Basu and colleagues conducted further preclinical analysis of VEGF-A as a target for the development of new cancer therapy approaches.

Source: worldpharmanews.com



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## ▶ GLOBAL NEWS

### 3. Simple blood test could save thousands from bowel cancer



Comparisons with other tests available have shown that blood test has greater sensitivity for the detection of bowel cancer.

A simple blood test that detects bowel cancer earlier is one step closer to being available on the NHS after demonstrating success in a clinical trial.

The Raman Spectrometry (RS) blood test has been developed by researchers at Swansea University, led by professors Dean Harris and Peter Dunstan, with funding from Cancer Research Wales and Health and Care Research Wales.

CanSense has received support from Life Sciences Hub Wales, which has enabled them to secure an additional £1.2m from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to further develop the blood test to use across Wales.

Source: [pharmatimes.com](http://pharmatimes.com)



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## ▶ GLOBAL NEWS

### 4. Scientists find sea corals are source of sought-after "anti-cancer" compound

The bottom of the ocean is full of mysteries but scientists have recently uncovered one of its best-kept secrets. For 25 years, drug hunters have been searching for the source of a natural chemical that had shown promise in initial studies for treating cancer. Now, researchers at University of Utah Health report that easy-to-find soft corals - flexible corals that resemble underwater plants - make the elusive compound.

Identifying the source allowed the researchers to go a step further and find the animal's DNA code for synthesizing the chemical. By following those instructions, they were able to carry out the first steps of re-creating the soft coral chemical in the laboratory.

"This is the first time we have been able to do this with any drug lead on Earth," says Eric Schmidt, Ph.D., professor of medicinal chemistry at U of U Health. He led the study with Paul Scesa, Ph.D., postdoctoral scientist and first author, and Zhenjian Lin, Ph.D., assistant research professor.

Source: [worldpharmanews.com](http://worldpharmanews.com)



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## ► PHARMA INDIA

### 1. Pharma companies are now busy adding capacities and seeing a surge in demand for non-Covid drugs

Over the past two years, as the world was grappling with the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic, BDR Pharmaceuticals, a leading generic pharma company based in Mumbai, was churning out drugs for treating it. It worked on active pharma ingredients (APIs) and formulations for favipiravir and amphotericin B, and manufactured remdesivir for a large pharma company. “Covid has been a gamechanger for several companies like ours. Our Covidspecific drugs and peripheral compositions did extremely well,”

Source: [economictimes.indiatimes.com](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com)



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## ▶ PHARMA INDIA

### 2. Indian pharma emerging stronger, better and smarter



Did you know that India is the world's largest supplier of generic medications, accounting for 20 per cent of total worldwide pharmaceutical exports. It is also the world's largest vaccine supplier in terms of volume, accounting for more than half of all vaccines produced worldwide. Indian medical exports fulfil the criteria and regulations of highly regulated markets such as the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and Canada, thanks to industry-standard compliant massive production capacity and a big domestic workforce.

The Indian pharma and healthcare industry is now looking to build on the experience of the last two years, strengthen the partnership with the government, and maintain the momentum in 2022, after demonstrating its prowess to the world during the difficult times of the pandemic by supplying 60 per cent of global Covid-19 vaccine requirements.

Source: [pharmabiz.com](http://pharmabiz.com)



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## ► PHARMA INDIA

### 3. US FDA lifts hold on Covaxin's clinical trials



The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which had put on hold the phase-II/III clinical trials of Bharat Biotech's COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin, in USA, has lifted the pause, according to a statement issued by Ocugen, Bharat Biotech's partner for the job in the US and Canada.

"We're extremely pleased that we can proceed with our clinical trials for Covaxin, our whole virus inactivated COVID-19 vaccine candidate. The need for delivering an additional, differentiated vaccine option, we believe, remains a priority," Dr Shankar Musunuri, Chairman, CEO and co-founder, Ocugen said.

The FDA's earlier decision, in April, to put on hold the trials was based on the US firm's decision to voluntarily implement a temporary pause in dosing participants of the job, following the World Health Organization's (WHO) observations on Covaxin-manufacturing plants in India.

Source: [expresspharma.in](http://expresspharma.in)



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## ► PHARMA INDIA

### 4. India supplies non-J&J vaccines to Cambodia and Thailand under Quad umbrella



India has supplied COVID-19 vaccines to Cambodia and Thailand under an initiative of the Quad group of countries, New Delhi said last week, though not the Johnson & Johnson shot as originally planned.

The leaders of the Quad countries - India, the US, Japan and Australia - could discuss the vaccine supply plan when they meet in Japan, Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson, Indian Foreign Ministry, told a news conference.

“We have sent, under the Quad umbrella, vaccines to Cambodia and Thailand,” Bagchi said

“Yes, the original plan was to use a different modality, but the final objective is to ensure that vaccines are shared under the Quad umbrella to those countries who need them.”

Bagchi did not give numbers, but Indian foreign ministry data shows that India last month sent 200,000 doses of Covovax, a version of the Novavax vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India (SII), to Thailand under the Quad programme.

Source: [expresspharma.in](http://expresspharma.in)



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## ▶ REGULATORY ROUND-UP

### 1. NICE draft final guidance for Gedeon Richter UK's new uterine fibroids treatment

**NICE** National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

The therapy offers patients a convenient alternative to surgery or injections and can be administered at home

Around 4,500 people in the UK will be eligible for a new oral treatment for uterine fibroids. It follows the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommendation of relugolix with estradiol and norethisterone acetate, also known as Ryego.

The oral treatment is made by Gedeon Richter UK and offers an alternative to surgery and injectable gonadotrophin-releasing hormone agonists.

The exact cause of fibroids is unknown, but they have been linked to oestrogen. Uterine fibroids are a non-cancerous growth that occur in or around the uterus, in about one in three 16 to 50-year-olds. They generally shrink after the menopause.

Source: [pharmatimes.com](http://pharmatimes.com)



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## ▶ REGULATORY ROUND-UP

### 2. NICE recommends Sanofi and Regeneron's Libtayo for advanced CSCC



The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has recommended Sanofi and Regeneron's Libtayo (cemiplimab) for patients with metastatic or locally advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC). The drug is the first and only systemic treatment option available for CSCC patients in England.

The treatment recommendation is specifically for eligible adults for whom surgery or radiation treatment is not appropriate. NICE's decision means eligible patients will be able to gain full NHS access to the drug in England via routine commissioning.

Around 28,000 people are diagnosed with CSCC every year, and out of this group, an estimated 2% will be at risk of developing metastatic disease

Source: [pharmatimes.com](http://pharmatimes.com)



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## ▶ REGULATORY ROUND-UP

### 3. EMA establishes Cancer Medicines Forum with academia to optimise cancer treatments in clinical practice



EMA, in collaboration with the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), has launched the Cancer Medicines Forum (CMF). Bringing together representatives from academic organisations and the European medicines regulatory network, the forum aims at advancing research into optimising cancer treatments and will contribute to foster high standards in cancer care in the European Union (EU).



Source: worldpharmanews.com



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## ▶ REGULATORY ROUND-UP

### 4. CHMP issues positive opinion for Lilly-Incyte's alopecia areata treatment



The Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has issued a positive opinion for Eli Lilly and Company and Incyte's Olumiant (baricitinib) to treat severe alopecia areata (AA) in adults. A once-a-day oral inhibitor of Janus kinase (JAK), Olumiant was discovered by Incyte and licenced to Lilly.

The CHMP recommendation is the initial step to obtaining regulatory approval in Europe for Olumiant to treat severe AA patients.

It has been currently referred to the European Commission for final action.

Source: [pharmaceutical-technology.com](http://pharmaceutical-technology.com)



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## ► MERGERS / ACQUISITIONS / COLLABORATIONS

### 1. Byondis and Medac link up to commercialise trastuzumab duocarmazine



Byondis and Medac link up to commercialise trastuzumab duocarmazine

Byondis and Medac have entered into a license and collaboration agreement for form of targeted chemotherapy



Byondis and Medac have announced that they will enter into a license and collaboration agreement to commercialise Byondis' lead programme anti-HER2 antibody-drug conjugate (ADC), trastuzumab duocarmazine (also known as SYD985).

The treatment is currently pending approval by the European Medicine's Agency (EMA) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), as well as other regulatory authorities in Europe.

Source: pharmaTimes.com



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## ► MERGERS / ACQUISITIONS / COLLABORATIONS

### 2. Innoviva enters agreement to acquire biopharma firm Entasis



Innoviva has signed a definitive merger agreement for the acquisition of all of the outstanding shares of late-stage clinical biopharmaceutical firm Entasis Therapeutics for \$2.20 per share in cash.

The latest deal values the equity of Entasis at \$113m on a fully diluted basis.

In 2020, Innoviva had made a strategic investment in Entasis and owns nearly 60% of the latter's outstanding shares.

The agreement is for shares that are currently not owned by Innoviva.

Set up in 2015 as an AstraZeneca spin-out, Entasis discovers and develops new antibacterial products.

INNOVIVA

Source: pharmaceutical-technology.com



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## ► MERGERS / ACQUISITIONS / COLLABORATIONS

### 3. AbbVie Chooses Cerebras Systems to Accelerate AI Biopharmaceutical Research

abbvie

Cerebras Systems, the pioneer in high performance artificial intelligence (AI) computing, and AbbVie, a global biopharmaceutical company, today announced a landmark achievement in AbbVie's AI work. Using a Cerebras CS-2 on biomedical natural language processing (NLP) models, AbbVie achieved performance in excess of 128 times that of a graphics processing unit (GPU), while using 1/3 the energy. Not only did AbbVie train the models more quickly, and for less energy, due to the CS-2's simple, standards-based programming workflow, the time usually allocated to model set up and tuning was also dramatically reduced.

Source: businesswire.com



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## ► MERGERS / ACQUISITIONS / COLLABORATIONS

### 4. PrecisionLife and Sano Genetics partnership will help identify treatments for long COVID

The project will analyse risks from Sano Genetics' data from 3,000 UK adults suffering from long COVID

PrecisionLife has announced a partnership with Sano Genetics - a genetic research platform enabling patients to participate in ethical research projects. It is hoped that the move will accelerate the understanding of long-term COVID-19 impacts.

The project will analyse Sano Genetics' data from 3,000 UK adults suffering from long COVID symptoms, using PrecisionLife's proprietary combinatorial analytics platform to identify risk-factors and potential drug targets.



It is estimated that 5-30% of COVID-19 patients will go on to have long-term complications and - with over 500 million people worldwide confirmed as having been infected - the need for better diagnostics and treatments is of utmost importance.

Source: pharmatimes.com



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## ▶ DRUGS: APPROVALS AND LAUNCHES

### 1. Sun Pharma to launch oral lipid-lowering drug, Brillo in India



Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited announced to launch a first-in-class oral drug, Bempedoic Acid, in India for reducing low-density lipoprotein under brand name “Brillo®”.

It is indicated for people who have an inherited genetic disorder that causes high cholesterol levels or established heart disease where cholesterol levels remain high, despite lifestyle changes and with the use of maximum tolerated dose of statins.

It is a novel treatment that will help manage high LDL cholesterol in patients with heart diseases, a condition which is growing at an alarming rate.

Source: [sunpharma.com](http://sunpharma.com)



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## ▶ DRUGS: APPROVALS AND LAUNCHES

### 2. Bayer announces China NMPA approves Verquvo to treat chronic heart failure and reduced ejection fraction

Bayer announced that China's National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) has approved vericiguat under the brand name Verquvo.

Verquvo (2.5 mg, 5 mg, and 10 mg), a soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) stimulator, is indicated in China to reduce the risk of heart failure (HF) hospitalization or requiring intravenous (IV) diuretics in emergency, in adults with symptomatic chronic HF and reduced ejection fraction (less than 45%) who are stabilized after a recent decompensation event with IV therapy. It works differently to existing heart failure treatments, providing a specific approach to managing chronic heart failure after a recent decompensation event with IV therapy, also known as a worsening heart failure event.



Current therapies block the harmful effects of the natural neurohormonal systems that are activated by the myocardial and vascular dysfunction present in heart failure. Verquvo works through a different mode of action. It specifically restores the deficient NO-sGC-cGMP pathway, which plays a critical role in the progression of heart failure and aggravating its symptoms.

Source: [pharmabiz.com](http://pharmabiz.com)



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## DRUGS: APPROVALS AND LAUNCHES

### 3. Roche launches antibody drug for breast cancer in India



Swiss drugmaker Roche Pharma made the breast cancer antibody cocktail drug PHESGO available in India, which will be priced 20% less and more convenient to administer than the existing therapy.

PHESGO is the world's first fixed dose combination of two monoclonal antibodies Perjeta (pertuzumab) and Herceptin (trastuzumab) in Oncology for the treatment of HER - 2 positive breast cancer. The drug is approved for treating both early and late stage or metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer.

PHESGO will come in a single vial for subcutaneous (under the skin) injection compared to existing therapy where Perjeta and Herceptin come in as two separate drugs, and are to be given through intravenous infusion (IV).



Source: [economictimes.indiatimes.com](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com)



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## ▶ DRUGS: APPROVALS AND LAUNCHES

### 4. Alembic Pharma gets US FDA nod for pirfenidone tablets



Alembic Pharmaceuticals Limited has received final approval from the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) for its Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) for pirfenidone tablets, 267 mg and 801 mg.

This tablets are indicated for the treatment of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF).

Source: [expresspharma.in](http://expresspharma.in)



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## ▶ DRUGS: DEVELOPMENT & CLINICAL TRIALS

### 1. Positive results for AstraZeneca's asthma therapy



PT027 is being developed through a partnership involving AstraZeneca and Avillion.

PT027 is a novel, a potential first-in-class inhaled, fixed-dose combination of albuterol, a short-acting beta2-agonist and budesonide, an inhaled corticosteroid. AstraZeneca's drug, at two different strengths of budesonide, demonstrated a statistically significant reduction in the risk of a severe exacerbation versus albuterol rescue in patients with moderate- to severe asthma.

MANDALA and DENALI announced positive high-level results of PT027's presenting potential reduction in the significant burden that asthma presents to millions of people worldwide and they also mentioned that "with the completion of this pivotal programme, Avillion maintains its 100% trial success rate across multiple therapy areas".

Source: pfizer.com



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## ▶ DRUGS: DEVELOPMENT & CLINICAL TRIALS

### 2. Sanofi's Sarclisa combination shows positive results in multiple myeloma patient

Sarclisa is a monoclonal antibody which targets a specific epitope on the CD38 receptor on multiple myeloma cells.

The latest results from the phase 3 IKEMA clinical trial evaluating Sarclisa (isatuximab) in combination with carfilzomib and dexamethasone demonstrated an unprecedented median progression free survival (mPFS) in patients with relapsed multiple myeloma receiving a proteasome inhibitor therapy.

**sanofi**

Source: [pharmatimes.com](http://pharmatimes.com)



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## ▶ DRUGS: DEVELOPMENT & CLINICAL TRIALS

### 3. PDE4B inhibitor slows IPF progression, says Boehringer



BI 1015550 was granted Breakthrough Therapy Designation by the US Food and Drug Administration in February 2022.

The promising 12-week Phase II data for BI 1015550, a novel investigational phosphodiesterase 4B (PDE4B) inhibitor, showed a reduction in the rate of lung function decline in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF).

The primary endpoint of the trial was the change from baseline in forced vital capacity (FVC) - meaning the maximum amount of air (measured in mL) that can be forcibly exhaled from the lungs after fully inhaling - at week 12. Median changes for patients taking BI 1015550 showed a slight improvement in FVC, and in those who took placebo, FVC was reduced:

- The median changes in FVC in patients who were not on approved antifibrotics were +5.7 mL for BI 1015550 and -81.7 mL for placebo.
- In patients already taking antifibrotic therapy, the median changes in FVC were +2.7 mL for BI 1015550 and -59.2 mL in the placebo arm.
- There is >98% probability that BI 1015550 was superior to placebo in slowing down the worsening of lung function in people with IPF.

Trial has also met its secondary endpoint, demonstrating that BI 1015550 showed acceptable safety and tolerability in IPF patients over 12 weeks. Diarrhea was the most frequently reported event in all patients (>10% of patients) and all events were reported as non-serious.

Boehringer Ingelheim will be initiating a Phase III clinical trial program to further investigate if BI 1015550 improves lung function in people with IPF and other forms of PPF, with the ambition to bring this medicine to patients as soon as possible.

Source: pharmaletter.com



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## ► DRUGS: DEVELOPMENT & CLINICAL TRIALS

### 4. AstraZeneca's dapagliflozin can “significantly” reduce risk of cardiovascular death in patients, DELIVER Phase III trial results show

The high-level results from the DELIVER Phase III trial released by AstraZeneca showed that dapagliflozin has reached a statistically significant and clinically meaningful reduction in the primary composite endpoint of cardiovascular (CV) death or worsening heart failure (HF). The trial was conducted in patients with HF with mildly reduced or preserved ejection fraction.

The company informed that the safety and tolerability profile of Dapagliflozin in the DELIVER Phase III trial were consistent with the well-established safety profile of the medicine.

Source: [financialexpress.com](http://financialexpress.com)



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## ► PATENTS: NEW APPROVALS /LITIGATIONS /SETTLEMENTS

### 1. NovoMedix Receives Research Grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to Advance NMX1 in TBNC

NovoMedix, LLC ("NovoMedix"), a biotechnology company creating novel, safe, and effective drugs to treat unmet medical needs, announced that the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute division of the NIH has awarded NovoMedix a \$2M Phase II SBIR grant to further the development of Novel Small Molecules that protect Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) patients from the devastating long-term cardio toxic effects of doxorubicin chemotherapy.

NMX1 is a novel, patented, orally available small molecule with excellent safety and PK properties that inhibits mTOR and secretion of IL-11 and activates AMPK. This unique mechanism allows NMX1 to act on both the tumor and the tumor microenvironment to prevent cancer cell proliferation, invasion, and migration while simultaneously protecting the heart to prevent cardiotoxicity, inflammation, and fibrosis.



Source: biospace.com



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## ► PATENTS: NEW APPROVALS /LITIGATIONS /SETTLEMENTS

### 2. Evonetix receives patent for gene synthesis method



Evonetix has been granted a European patent for its gene synthesis binary assembly method.

The chip uses precise temperature control to manage the DNA synthesis cycle at thousands of individually addressable sites across the surface of the chip. Eltrombopag olamine is an active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) in its brand Revolade and is approved in more than 90 countries and regions of the world to treat various chronic immune (idiopathic) thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP).



The patented method enables the assembly of long DNA molecules 'on-chip', while also removing synthesis errors during the assembly process. This combination of error removal and assembly processes results in a far greater proportion of accurate gene sequences than when using conventional assembly methods.

Meanwhile, binary assembly uses the charged nature of DNA molecules - combined with precision liquid flow - to move DNA between synthesis and assembly sites on the surface of a semiconductor chip, bringing together complementary sequences.

Thermal control separates error-containing sequences from those with correct homology, based on changes in melting temperature. Thousands of sites can be arranged across a single chip surface, which allows for large scale parallel synthesis and assembly.

By completing full gene synthesis on one of our semiconductor chips, we can bring the prospect of a desktop DNA printer to thousands of labs.

Source: [pharmatimes.com](http://pharmatimes.com)



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PATENTS: NEW APPROVALS /LITIGATIONS /SETTLEMENTS

3. Poolbeg Pharma PLC Announces US Patents Granted for POLB 001 and POLB 002

Poolbeg Pharma a pharmaceutical company with a unique capital light clinical model, has been granted patents by the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for POLB 001, a small molecule immunomodulator for the treatment of severe influenza and POLB 002, a first-in-class, intranasally administered RNA-based immunotherapy for respiratory virus infections.



POLB 001	POLB 002
<p>The USPTO granted a patent for the majority of Poolbeg's claims around the use of certain p38 MAP kinase (mitogen-activated protein kinase) inhibitors for the treatment or prevention of severe influenza and the hypercytokinaemia (or "cytokine storm") it causes through modulation of the immune response (reducing the body's hyperinflammatory response to the virus).</p>	<p>The USPTO granted a patent for the identification of defective interfering (DI) RNA-based influenza viruses for use against infection by influenza, that provides a drug candidate with both antiviral prophylactic and therapeutic applications. By having a dual mechanism of action POLB 002 (which was identified using this method) directly interferes with influenza virus replication blocking disease progression and also triggers nasal cells into an antiviral state. In this way, POLB 002 could provide pan-viral protection from respiratory virus infections including influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), SARS-CoV-2 and others.</p>

Source: biospace.com



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## ▶ PATENTS: NEW APPROVALS /LITIGATIONS /SETTLEMENTS

### 4. FDA grants EUA for Pfizer-BioNTech's Covid-19 booster in children



The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a 10µg booster dose of Pfizer and BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine in children aged five to 11 years.

The booster shot is indicated for those who have already received the initial two-dose regimen of the vaccine.

As per the EUA, the 10µg booster dose should be administered a minimum of five months following the second dose of the initial vaccine series.

Trial results showed that booster dose of the vaccine stimulated a robust immune response in subjects aged five to 11 years, inducing neutralizing antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus' wild-type and Omicron variant.

Source: pharmaceutical-technology.com



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▶ TECHNOLOGY / NDDS

## 1. Roche launches ACCU-FINE pen needles for painless insulin delivery



Roche Diabetes Care India (RDC India) has launched ACCU-FINE, quality pen needle . to make the process of insulin delivery smoother and virtually painless for people. This is the latest innovation from Roche Diabetes Care, makers of ACCU-CHEK product.



The ACCU-FINE needles are available in packs of 100 in three variants including a 33G 4 mm variant.

Based on deep customer insights, the ACCU-FINE Pen Needles are specially designed with three key features to make them gentle in use.

First, the needle has a special cut at the tip to ensure gentle insertion second, the needle has a thin wall to enable rapid insulin flow; and third, the needle has a special coating that allows it to be inserted into the skin easily.

Source: [economictimes.indiatimes.com.com](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com.com)





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## ▶ TECHNOLOGY /NDDS

### 2. Alkem launches inhalation device - Innohaler for Asthma and COPD patients



Alkem has launched Innohaler, a DPI device for Asthma and COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) patients.

Alkem explain that the drug will reach the lungs effectively in each inhalation with added patient awareness and adherence programme.



Source: [expresspharma.com](http://expresspharma.com)



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## ▶ TECHNOLOGY /NDDS

### 3. NICE recommends app-based treatment for insomnia over sleeping pill



NICE has recommended Sleepio as an effective alternative to sleeping pills. Sleepio is a six-week online programme designed by sleep experts based on cognitive and behavioural techniques. The app focuses on sleep restriction, stimulus control, cognitive tools and features a sleep hygiene review.

The app provides a sleep test, weekly interactive CBT-I sessions and allows users to keep a diary tracking their sleeping patterns. Meanwhile, CBT-I sessions focus on identifying thoughts, feelings and behaviours that contribute to the symptoms of insomnia.

Cognitive interventions aim to improve the way a person thinks about sleep and the behavioural interventions aspire to a healthy sleep routine.



Source: pharmatimes.com



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## ▶ TECHNOLOGY /NDDS

### 4. FDA clears Neurometrix's wearable neuromodulator as first non-drug fibromyalgia treatment



For years, all the those therapeutics have been of the pharmacological variety, with three drugs approved by the FDA since 2007 for fibromyalgia now. However now the patients will have a drug-free alternative to treat their fibromyalgia, as FDA has issued wearable neuromodulation system from NeuroMetrix designed to ease chronic pain.

The Quell device is worn in a sleeve that wraps around the upper calf. Electrodes attached to the band stimulate the sensory nerves in the leg to trigger the body's pain relief response, easing symptoms of fibromyalgia.

Source: fiercebiotech.com



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