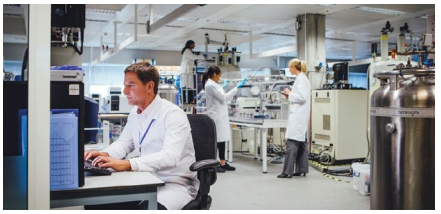
GLOBAL PHARMA 360

News of Note

10 BIOTECHS SET TO SHAKE UP THE INDUSTRY'S TOP RANKS



Investment bank Cowen & Co. took a future look at the industry and predicted 10 biotechs its analysts believe will grow to lead the industry.

Here are the 10 mid-sized next generation's top biotech's and the reason for their optimism

1. Agios

Market capitalization: $4.5 billion

Agios' base business peaking at $1 billion in revenue with an additional boost from Celgene-provided royalties for Idhifa. Analysts highlighted the company's embrace of personalized medicine, where the focus is on drugs with available biomarkers.

2. Alnylam

Market capitalization: $8.9 billion

Alnylam stands out for its work in RNA interference, which led to the landmark approval of Onpattro in August. Cowen views RNAi as "not just a prolific engine of drug candidate generation, but also capable of addressing diseases that are otherwise undruggable."

3. BioMarin

Market capitalization: $17.5 billion

BioMarin's pipeline praised as the deepest, most mature pipeline of rare disease therapies of any company currently. The biotech already brought seven products to market and has several more in various stages of development.

4. Bluebird bio

Market capitalization: $7.8 billion

Bluebird said earlier this year they plan to file three therapies for approval by the end of 2019. Recent data released in September reinforced Lenti-D's strength in efficacy and safety and the company is among the leaders in BCMA-targeting CAR-T therapy.

5. Incyte

Market capitalization: $14.8 billion

Incyte's expert medical chemists have been prolific in the generation of promising small molecules targeting oncology and immunology targets. Despite recent setbacks, management still has an above-average track record of execution, including driving commercial success of Jakafi.

6. Neurocrine

Market capitalization: $11.2 billion

Neurocrine has a solid all-around business, a proven drug discovery process that yielded Ingrezza and Orilissa as well as an Ingrezza launch that beat "modest investor expectations."

7. Sage

Market capitalization: $6.6 billion

The main draw is "the commercial promise of its late-stage pipeline with $3B+ potential in major depressive disorder and broader PPD alone, not even including other programs in essential tremor and insomnia." Clinical successes for brexanolone and SAGE-217 have raised investor expectations.

8. Sarepta

Market capitalization: $10.5 billion

Exondys 51 has found commercial success, with peak sales estimates of more than $700 million despite modest efficacy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The biotech's pipeline, particularly in gene therapy, could make it a key player in DMD down the road as well as in the present.

9. Seattle Genetics

Market capitalization: $12.5 billion

Adcetris could grow to be a blockbuster drug for Seattle Genetics. It already has picked up five approved indications from the FDA and recently scored positive results in another key Phase 3 study.

10. Ultragenyx

Market capitalization: $3.8 billion

Cowen seems sold on Ultragenyx's leader. The bank's report stated its "most unique value lies in the experience and company-building strategy driven by its founding CEO, a pediatric geneticist and original CMO of Biomarin."

NOVARTIS COZIES UP TO SILICON VALLEY WITH NEW LAB

Switzerland's Novartis hit upon the idea after identifying a gap in the technology development and adoption process. Tech companies, from Alphabet, Amazon and Apple down to startups, are working on products and services that could improve R&D and other parts of the biopharma industry. But these companies can be disconnected from organizations that will use their technologies, depriving them of input that could ensure they meet the needs of potential customers such as Novartis.

AS CLOCK TICKS, EMA LAUNCHES 3RD PHASE OF BREXIT PLAN

- The European Medicines Agency has moved into the third phase of its business continuity plan.
- The EMA is temporarily scaling back guideline development and revision from Nov. 1 on, and putting non-product working parties on hold. Exceptions will be made for product-related working parties, and for a number of urgent guidelines.
- Phase 4 of the plan will begin on Jan. 1 and include moving the EMA's headquarters from London to Amsterdam. The agency expects that activities should be back to normal by June 30, 2019, about three months after Brexit's scheduled date of March 29.

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