



VACCINE EQUITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

BY DOMENICO CRISCUOLO

Just over one year has passed since the authorization of first-generation vaccines against COVID-19. Since then, almost 10 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered globally.

Although the delivery of this number of vaccines is a remarkable achievement, there is still a disparity in vaccine equity, access, and affordability between high-income and low-income countries. [Read more here.](#)

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DO WE NEED NEW ANTIBIOTICS?

BY DOMENICO CRISCUOLO

This question has only one answer: YES! The research and development of new antibiotics was a priority for most pharmaceutical companies in the last decades of the past century, as infectious diseases were among the top conditions affecting a vast majority of patients. However, in the last 20 years, many pharmaceutical companies closed their labs devoted to antibiotic research, for two main reasons. First, there was the (incorrect) perception that the available antibiotics were sufficient to cover the present and future needs. Second, research on a new antibiotic frequently has no economic return because the selection of resistant strains limits the use of the new antibiotic. [Continue reading here!](#)



HIGHLIGHTING CLINICAL TRIALS FROM THE EMA

We are pleased to share the monthly EMA newsletter with you, which covers various topics, all related to the implementation of the new European Regulation on Clinical Trials. The EMA began this implementation in January of this year. You may recall we referenced this implementation in the last issue of the Academy News. The EMA newsletter covers Clinical Trials Governance, with reference to both the Clinical Trials Advisory Group and the Clinical Trials Coordination Group. It also includes some news about the Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS). Additionally, the EMA distributed an invitation to sponsors to join one of a series of meetings planned at its facilities in Amsterdam. These meetings will serve as opportunities to clarify the technical aspects of this new tool. [Continue reading here.](#)



PEDIATRIC CLINICAL TRIALS: WHERE ARE THEY?

BY DOMENICO CRISCUOLO

A staggering 2,272 clinical trials involving children had not made their results public within three years of trial completion, a new study shows.

In total, results could not be found for nearly half (48%) of all pediatric trials, following a search of both trial registries and academic journals. [Read more here.](#)



NEWS FROM THE LITERATURE: CANCER KEEPS FIGHTING



The war against cancer is not yet won, so it may appear unusual that The Lancet is devoting a series of publications to the issue of cancer survivors. Today there are a significant number of patients who survived cancers but maintain a series of problems in their quality of life.

"The authors of a series of publications describe the long-term effects and risks in patients who have had cancer, and the management of the most frequent clinical problems, including the care of the growing number of people treated for cancer during childhood and adolescence. Physical issues such as pain, fertility problems, and treatment-related health risks are common. Long-term psychosocial effects around sleep, fatigue, cognitive impairment, fear of recurrence, and concerns about relationships, finances, work, and education are also prevalent and under-addressed..." [Keep reading here.](#)

APRIL EMA HIGHLIGHTS AND SUMMARIES

BY DOMENICO CRISCUOLO

Check out the April 2022 EMA newsletter which features the latest updates on COVID-19 vaccines and antivirals, and recent regulatory approvals of drugs fighting cancer, diabetes, hematologic diseases, and HIV as well as drugs that target diseases of the immune, nervous, nephrology, and hormone system. In addition, it includes updates and revisions to EMA guidelines, as well as summaries of several public meetings held at EMA facilities. [Continue reading here.](#)



PFIZER TO ACQUIRE REVIRAL AND ADVANCE FIGHT AGAINST RSV

On April 7, 2022, Pfizer announced its plans to acquire ReViral, a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of antiviral therapeutics in the fight against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). This is exciting news for medicines development in general and Pfizer in particular, as it serves the company's endeavor to address a worldwide unmet need for RSV treatments.

According to an article from BioPharm International, "Treatment options for RSV are extremely limited and focus primarily on supportive care," said Annaliesa Anderson, PhD, senior vice president and chief scientific officer, Bacterial Vaccines and Hospital, at Pfizer.

[Click here to read the complete article.](#)