

# PNC PHARMA & LIFE SCIENCES

## Monthly News Brief

November 2023

### **Top MedTech Companies Cut Jobs in 2023** *(MedTech Dive)*

J&J, Medtronic and Abbott are among the top companies to announce layoffs this year as the industry implemented cost-cutting measures. Multiple diagnostic and laboratory companies also laid off workers throughout the year, as their COVID-19 testing businesses dropped from peaks seen during the beginning of the pandemic. Despite the cost-cutting measures seen this year, the industry overall reported a stable economic environment in 3Q23, with some companies signaling that 4Q23 would be similar

### **November Brings New Flurry of Biotech Layoffs** *(BioPharma Dive)*

Biotechnology companies continue to contend with a challenging financial outlook, with at least four publicly traded drugmakers announcing layoffs to start November and one private startup revealing plans to shut down. These companies join a list of more than 130 biotechs that have laid off employees this year as the sector struggles with a shaky stock market and diminished funding

### **World's First CRISPR Medicine Approved in UK for Sickle Cell, Beta Thalassemia** *(BioPharma Dive)*

Health authorities in the U.K. approved a new kind of medicine that uses CRISPR gene editing to treat the blood diseases sickle cell and beta thalassemia, making it the first time a drug built with the technology has won regulatory clearance anywhere in the world. The CRISPR technology has transformed the field of genetic medicine, offering researchers and drugmakers a powerful and adaptable tool to target the roots of inherited genetic diseases like sickle cell and beta thalassemia

### **Why Medical Device Companies are Worried About The EPA's Planned Sterilization Regs** *(MedTech Dive)*

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to finalize new regulations in March 2024 that would limit ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions from companies that sterilize medical devices. EtO is used to sterilize more than 20 billion medical devices, or about half of all devices, sold in the U.S. each year. There are currently no viable alternatives to EtO for many products that might be damaged by heat or humidity, such as devices made of certain types of plastics or resins; devices with multiple layers of packaging; or devices with hard-to-reach places, such as catheters. There are 86 commercial sterilization facilities in the US

### **Roche's Genentech Partners with Nvidia in AI Drug Deal** *(BioPharma Dive)*

Roche's Genentech unit is partnering with computing giant Nvidia in a multiyear deal that highlights the pharmaceutical industry's growing hopes of using artificial intelligence (AI) to speed up the process of designing and developing new drugs. Nvidia claims they have expanded their imaging and AI capabilities over the past decade to where its technology can predict protein structures and screen small molecules more accurately and more quickly

### **Meeting Manufacturing Demand in The New Era of mRNA Technologies** *(Contract Pharma)*

CDMOs played a critical role in supporting the development and manufacturing of mRNA technologies throughout the COVID pandemic. Now, in the post-pandemic era, CDMOs that adapted their facilities to support mRNA production and gained experience supporting this once unfamiliar drug modality are well situated to meet the rising demand from over 300 mRNA technologies in the pipeline targeting a wide range of therapeutic areas. The path to commercialization for mRNA therapeutics is not simple, and extensive expertise and experience are vital in overcoming the many challenges involved since the manufacturing standards and regulatory guidelines are not completely established yet

### **Vertical Integration Lessons: The Economics and Strategies of Hospital-Owned Specialty Pharmacies** *(Drug Channels)*

Vertical integration has been occurring among hospitals and specialty pharmacies. Hospital-owned pharmacies now account for nearly 25%, or 412, of the 1,651 total accredited specialty pharmacy locations. The 340B Drug Pricing Program incentivizes hospitals to operate specialty pharmacies. Hospitals can generate substantial profits by acquiring 340B discounted specialty drugs and dispensing them from internal pharmacies.

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