

PNC PHARMA & LIFE SCIENCES

Monthly News Brief

April 2021

COVID-19

[**Medtech Earnings Show Early Signs of Electives Return, Lingering Testing Uncertainty**](#) (*Medtech Dive*)

A compilation of medical device and diagnostics companies' first quarter results, updated weekly. Elective care is rebounding throughout the industry after declining in the winter, while COVID testing demand softens due to increased vaccinations

[**Cardinal Health Wins \\$58M Federal PPE Contract**](#) (*Medical Design & Outsourcing*)

The US Department of Health and Human Services awards CAH a contract to support the Strategic National Stockpile, with exercise options that could reach \$91.6M. With its distribution network, Cardinal can rapidly deploy and deliver stockpile inventory from multiple manufacturers throughout the US and its territories

[**Lonza Doubles Drug Substance Production for Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine**](#) (*Contract Pharma*)

Lonza expands its 10-year strategic collaboration with Moderna, doubling COVID-19 vaccine production at its Visp, Switzerland facility with the installation of three additional drug substance manufacturing lines

[**Epidemics That Didn't Happen**](#) (*Prevent Epidemics*)

This collection of case studies highlights the successes of epidemics that "weren't," due to careful planning and swift action. Examples provided demonstrate improving preparedness and governance for public health emergencies can avert global tragedy

M&A and IPO Markets

[**A Record Number of Biotechs are Going Public. Here's how They are Performing**](#) (*BioPharma Dive*)

Since 2013, public investment has been pouring into the biotech industry, with backers riding a "multi-year boom." Keep track of initial public offerings throughout the sector in real time with this database

[**Quest Diagnostics Divests Minority Share of Q2 Solutions**](#) (*Yahoo Finance*)

Established in 2015 through a joint venture between Quest and IQVIA, Q2 Solutions is a global clinical lab services organization that provides comprehensive testing, project management, supply chain, and tracking solutions for clinical trials. The \$760M sale to IQVIA will enable Quest to focus on its core profitable diagnostics information services business

[**illumina Sues European Commission to Stop Investigation of \\$8B Grail Acquisition**](#) (*Fierce Biotech*)

After the FTC announced it would intervene in the transaction over antitrust concerns, the European Commission for competition also announced an investigation. illumina claims the EC has no jurisdiction, as Grail has no active business activities in Europe

Novel Medicine

[**Moderna Announces Clinical Progress from Industry-Leading mRNA Franchise**](#) (*Moderna*)

The pioneering company for mRNA vaccines and therapeutics announces positive interim data from a Phase 1 Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine trial and Phase 2 cytomegalovirus (CMV) vaccine trial, both of which are mRNA vaccines. The company plans to continue to accelerate its mRNA vaccine pipeline with flu and HIV vaccine trials expected in 2021

[**New CAR-T Therapy from Bristol, Bluebird Effective but too Costly, ICER Finds**](#) (*BioPharma Dive*)

The Institute for Clinical and Economic Review rated the new cell therapy for blood cancer treatment "B+," citing "small to substantial" health benefits over commonly used drugs, but recommended a 37-54% discount to bring the drug's cost under the group's common cost-effectiveness thresholds

[**FDA Clears Augmented Reality Smartglasses for Guiding Knee Replacement Surgeries**](#) (*Fierce Biotech*)

The Pixee Medical system titled "Knee+" uses a camera to assist with the alignment of instruments and the knee joint itself within the surgeon's field of view. The company plans to expand the platform to eventually include hip and shoulder replacements

Other News

[**CMS Finalizes Joint Replacement Pricing Extension with Input from Medtech Industry**](#) (*Medtech Dive*)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has finalized a three-year extension to a bundled payment model for joint replacements that has driven down the cost of procedures in recent years. Analysts do not predict a negative revenue impact for device manufacturers, stating a future of selling the "total solution" will mitigate any price degradation

[**The Top 15 Licensing Deals of 2020**](#) (*Fierce Biotech*)

Oncology dominated the list of highest-value deals of 2020, making up \$24B out of a total \$40B. The overall value of deals was down slightly from \$41.1B in 2019. Central nervous system therapies were also prominent in 2020 with four deals, three of which were from Biogen

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