

PNC PHARMA & LIFE SCIENCES

Monthly News Brief

May 2021

COVID-19

[Labcorp Study Suggests COVID-19 Antibodies Remain at Least 10 Months After Infection](#) (*Business Wire*)

Nearly 87% of recovered COVID-19 patients maintained antibodies to the virus proteins for 10+ months. The positivity rate of antibodies to the nucleocapsid proteins declined more rapidly than that of spike antibodies over a prolonged period of time

[FDA Authorizes GSK-Vir's Antibody Treatment for COVID-19](#) (*BioSpace*)

Sotrovimab, a single-dose monoclonal antibody treatment, is authorized to treat patients aged 12 and older with mild-to-moderate COVID-19. Early data showed an 85% drop in hospitalization for more than 24 hours or death in patients receiving the treatment compared to placebo

Legal Proceedings

[Alvotech Latest to Challenge AbbVie on US Humira Exclusivity](#) (*BioProcess International*)

Humira is the world's top selling drug, generating almost \$20 billion in revenues for AbbVie in 2020. Sale of the drug in the US is currently protected from competition due to AbbVie's web of patents and legal agreements with numerous biosimilar makers, and Alvotech is seeking to end this monopoly in the US

[Opioid Trial in West Virginia Comes Amid a National Reckoning for Big Pharma](#) (*NPR*)

The trial's outcome is expected to establish whether drug distributors face nationwide liability for their alleged failure to prevent the abusive ordering of prescription painkillers. The distributors deny any wrongdoing, and claim the filling of prescriptions under federal regulatory supervision was legal

M&A

[Becton Dickinson To Spin Diabetes Care Unit in 2022](#) (*Forbes*)

The unit will be spun-off into an independent, publicly traded company, and will be the global leader in insulin injection devices, producing ~8 billion devices and serving ~30 million patients annually. The unit produced \$1.1B in 2020. BDX will continue to focus on leading medical technologies and solutions

[PerkinElmer to Acquire In-Vitro Diagnostics Company Immunodiagnostic Systems Holdings PLC](#) (*Yahoo Finance*)

The all cash offer has a total enterprise value of \$124 million and is expected to close early in the third quarter of 2021. Headquartered in the UK, IDS is a leading in-vitro diagnostic solution provider to the laboratory market. Through the acquisition, PerkinElmer will be able to grow its Diagnostics business and specifically its immunodiagnostics segment

[Charles River Lays Out \\$293M to Snap Up Viral Vector Specialist Vigene, its 2nd M&A Deal this Year](#) (*Fierce Pharma*)

The \$292.5 million acquisition will help Charles River Labs to expand its cell and gene portfolio. The company predicts the cell and gene therapy CDMO market is worth ~\$2.5 billion now and expects at least 25% annual growth over the next 5 years

Novel Medicine

[J&J's New Cancer Drug Leads a Growing Pipeline of Dual-Targeting Antibodies](#) (*BioPharma Dive*)

The FDA approval of J&J's Rybrevant is the third bispecific antibody drug that has won regulatory clearance in the US. Bispecific antibodies bind to two proteins simultaneously. Rybrevant blocks the action of two proteins that help tumors grow and spread, and was approved to treat a specific mutation that is thought to be present in ~2% of patients with non-small cell lung cancer

[Quest and Paige Collaborate to Advance AI-Generated Pathology to Improve Cancer Diagnosis and Care](#) (*Quest Diagnostics*)

The collaboration involves using Paige's proprietary machine learning expertise of pathology diagnostic data and digitized slides from Quest to uncover markers of cancer and other diseases. The collaboration will initially focus on solid tumor cancers, such as prostate, breast, colorectal, and lung

[Medical Diagnostic Laboratories Announces New Line of Dermatopathology Testing](#) (*Cision*)

The new line of dermatological testing blends DNA-based molecular testing with traditional pathology tests to aid in the diagnosis or screening for dermatologic conditions. Hereditary cancer genetic testing may confirm a diagnosis and help to guide treatment

Other News

[CVS Health Launches Clinical Trial Services Business](#) (*Clinical Trials Arena*)

The new unit will build on the company's healthcare services and clinical research capabilities to improve access to clinical trials, as well as enhance participant retention and research efficacy. The aim is also to design decentralized approaches to deliver Phase III/IV trials and real-world evidence studies at CVS sites, home, or virtually

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