

PNC PHARMA & LIFE SCIENCES

Monthly News Brief

September 2021

M&A Announcements

[Catalent Lays Out \\$1B to Buy Gummy Manufacturer Bettera \(Fierce Pharma\)](#)

The all-cash deal will allow Catalent to expand its offerings in consumer healthcare, offering customers more product development opportunities and increasing manufacturing capacity. The deal is set to close by the end of the year

[Baxter to Buy Hill-Rom for \\$10.5 Billion After Prior Refusal \(Bloomberg\)](#)

The deal comes a month after Hill-Rom rejected a \$9.6B takeover offer from Baxter. The acquisition is expected to close by early 2022, and will allow Baxter to provide a broader range of medical products and accelerate its expansion into digital offerings

Novel Medicine

[Eisai Initiates Rolling Submission for the US FDA Biologics License Application of its Alzheimer's Drug \(PR Newswire\)](#)

Lecanemab is an investigational antibody for the treatment of early Alzheimer's disease, demonstrating reduction in amyloid plaques and clinical decline across several endpoints in its Phase 2b study. The rolling application is being submitted under the accelerated approval pathway, and allows completed portions of the application to be reviewed to the FDA on an ongoing basis

[Moderna Founder's Next Big Play in RNA Raises \\$440M \(BioPharma Dive\)](#)

Laronde, a startup founded by the same biotech incubator as Moderna, centers its research around a synthetic, circular strand of genetic information that it calls "endless RNA," or eRNA. Because of its circular shape, eRNA is less easily broken down by enzymes that need the end of a molecule to latch onto, potentially allowing protein expression to occur for weeks or months

[Zimmer 'Smart Knee' Gets FDA Nod as Ortho Rivalry with Stryker Heats Up \(MedTech Dive\)](#)

The smart knee implant for total knee replacement, known as Persona IQ, combines Zimmer's Persona knee with Canary Medical's implantable sensor technology. Post implantation, Persona IQ will collect patient data such as range of motion, step count, and walking speed and allow for remote monitoring to aid in the patient's recovery

[FDA Accepts Regeneron's Libtayo for Priority Review for Advanced Cervical Cancer \(Regeneron\)](#)

The supplemental Biologics License Application for Libtayo to treat patients with recurring or metastatic cervical cancer whose disease progressed after chemotherapy is expected to be decisioned by January 30, 2022. The extensive clinical program for Libtayo is focused on difficult-to-treat cancers. It is currently used to treat certain types of skin and lung cancers

[Pfizer Submits Data to FDA on COVID-19 Vaccine for Younger Kids \(Axios\)](#)

The companies found that two doses, one-third of the size of those given to people over 12, elicited a comparable antibody response to people aged 16-26 who had been vaccinated. The companies report that a formal emergency use authorization should be expected in the coming weeks

Opioid Settlements

[The Sacklers, Who Made Billions from Oxycontin, Pay \\$4.3B and Get Immunity from Opioid Lawsuits \(NPR\)](#)

A federal judge approved a bankruptcy settlement that releases the Sackler family from any liability related to the opioid epidemic. The family will have to pay \$4.3 billion and forfeit ownership of Purdue Pharma

[\\$26B Settlement of Opioid Lawsuits to Move Ahead \(AP News\)](#)

The three largest US drug distribution companies, AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, and McKesson, as well as drugmaker Johnson & Johnson announced that enough states had agreed to a settlement of lawsuits over the opioid crisis. The next step is getting local governments to sign on the deal by January 2, 2022

[Drug Distributors Strike 1st Opioid Settlement with Native American Tribe for \\$75 Million \(Reuters\)](#)

The same three distributors in the above article will pay more than \$75 million over 6.5 years to the Cherokee Nation for an alleged oversupply of prescription and opioid pills that disproportionately affected Native Americans

[Teva Reaches Agreement with Louisiana to Settle the State's Opioid-Related Claims \(Business Wire\)](#)

Under the settlement, Teva will pay Louisiana \$15 million over 18 years, and will donate additional lifesaving medicines to aid in opioid addiction and recovery. Teva continues to negotiate a national settlement

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