

## *Market Round-up*

V13 – 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

### *General Market News:*

- **Novo Nordisk** has acquired all of the shares of **Ziyo**, a University of Bristol spin-out based at Unit DX science incubator in Bristol, UK.  
[LINK](#)
- **GSK** confirmed they are to close its manufacturing site in Sligo by 2021, with the loss of 165 jobs.  
[LINK](#)
- **ViiV Healthcare** and **Janssen** have unveiled positive headline data from a late-stage trial of their injectable two-drug regimen for the treatment of **HIV**.  
[LINK](#)
- **GSK** sees positive signs from trials of reduced **HIV treatment**.  
[LINK](#)
- **Astellas** boosts ocular pipeline with gene therapy acquisition.  
[LINK](#)
- **NICE** have confirmed they are **not** recommending **Biogen's Spinraza** for the rare genetic disorder spinal muscular atrophy at this time.  
[LINK](#)
- **Merck** profits decline but new drugs maintain sales growth.  
[LINK](#)
- Despite double-digit sales drop for **Epogen** and **Aranesp**, **Amgen** revenues up 4% in second quarter.  
[LINK](#)
- **Teva, Regeneron's Fasinumab** hits osteoarthritis goals.  
[LINK](#)
- **Pfizer** stops sales of injectable opioids to veterinary market.  
[LINK](#)
- **Mylan/Pfizer's EpiPen** supply woes drag on.  
[LINK](#)
- Mayo firm **PamEx** wins six-year legal battle against pharmaceutical giants.  
[LINK](#)
- As **Roche** braces for the biosimilar assault on blockbuster cancer drugs, its **Genentech** unit is parting ways with 223 staff in California.  
[LINK](#)

## NCPE Drug Updates

- The NCPE recommends that **MSD's pembrolizumab (Keytruda®)** which is indicated for the first-line treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma **not** be considered for reimbursement at the submitted price.  
[LINK](#)
- **Novartis's Erenumab (Aimovig®)** which is indicated for the treatment of migraine in adults, has been referred for a full HTA by the NCPE.  
[LINK](#)
- The **Bristol-Meyer-Squibbs** drug **Nivolumab (Opdivo®)** indicated as monotherapy for the adjuvant treatment of adults with melanoma has been referred for a full HTA by the NCPE.  
[LINK](#)
- **AstraZeneca's Osimertinib (Tagrisso®)** indicated as monotherapy for the first-line treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer has been referred for a full HTA by the NCPE.  
[LINK](#)
- The NCPE recommends that **Novartis's Ribociclib (Kisqali®)** in combination with an aromatase inhibitor (AI) is indicated for certain treatments of postmenopausal women **not** be considered for reimbursement **unless** cost effectiveness can be improved relative to existing treatments.  
[LINK](#)
- **Eisai's & MSD's Lenvatinib (Lenvima®)** which is indicated as monotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with advanced or unresectable HCC has been referred for a full HTA by the NCPE.  
[LINK](#). It has however, just received the green light in the US. [LINK](#)

## Biosimilars/Biologics:

- The FDA has approved **Pfizer's** biosimilar of **Amgen's Neupogen®** (filgrastim). **Pfizer's** product, **Nivestym™**, is the second biosimilar of **Neupogen** to be approved after **Sandoz's Zarxio®**.  
[LINK](#)
- A US district court has denied **Johnson & Johnson's** motion to dismiss **Pfizer's Inflectra** lawsuit, a case claiming anticompetitive practices blocked US uptake of the **Remicade** biosimilar.  
[LINK](#)
- **Prof Michael Barry, NCPE** says the **Health Service Executive** “must take seriously” the need to replace expensive branded biological medicines with cheaper alternatives.  
[LINK](#)

## Drug Approvals:

- **Roche** and **Novartis's** fast-maturing allergy drug **Xolair** has shown it's still got plenty more to offer after picking up an FDA breakthrough designation for a new food allergy indication.  
[LINK](#)

## Further Reading:

- **Janssen** has come first in a new ranking of pharma companies' **reputation among mental health patient groups** - but the report notes that engagement between these groups and companies is mostly quite limited.  
[LINK](#)

- **Utility Values** for Health States in Ireland: A Value Set for the **EQ-5D-5L**.  
[LINK](#)
- Despite the explosive growth of the **biologics** sector, there are other factors that could further transform the market. In particular, the potential for **oral delivery of biologics** could completely change the landscape for biologics.  
[LINK](#)
- **Geisinger** and **Merck** unveil new applications developed to help improve patient communication and care delivery.  
[LINK](#)
- A UK-wide class action suit is also being taken against a number of companies involved in the production of **Pandemrix** - including **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)** - which remains at the centre of a global narcolepsy controversy.  
[LINK](#)
- Scientists have discovered a marker in the blood that could predict the risk of developing **kidney cancer**.  
[LINK](#)