

## ***Market Round-up***

*Week Ending:  
30<sup>th</sup> October 2020*

### ***General Market News:***

- Galway based **Venari Medical** Secures \$5.3 million investment to advance the minimally invasive treatment of *chronic venous disease*  
[LINK](#)
- **Merck, Pfizer** *pneumonia* vaccines running low in EU as researchers fight COVID-19  
[LINK](#)
- HSE CEO Paul Reid warns that hospitals may not yet have felt impact of Covid-19 surge  
[LINK](#)
- **Pharma sector** not immune to the effects of Covid-19  
[LINK](#)
- High Court to rule on €1.64bn **Perrigo** tax case next week  
[LINK](#)

### ***Covid19***

- **Novartis** has signed an option and license agreement with **Molecular Partners** to develop, manufacture and commercialise the latter's *anti-COVID-19 DARPIn* programme.  
[LINK](#)
- **Pfizer** not yet ready to release Covid-19 vaccine data  
[LINK](#)
- *'We're overwhelmed by a second wave':* Here's what Europe's worst-hit countries are doing to try curb Covid-19  
[LINK](#)
- **Gilead** sold \$873 million worth of its antiviral COVID-19 treatment even though data on its success remains mixed  
[LINK](#)

### ***Drug Approvals/Filings:***

- The **NCPE** has recommended a full HTA for **Biogen's Nusinersen (Spinraza®)**  
[LINK](#)

- The **FDA** has granted priority review to **AstraZeneca & Daiichi** for their drug *Enhertu*'s application in HER2-positive, metastatic gastric or gastroesophageal junction cancer

[LINK](#)

### **Mergers, Acquisitions & Collaborations:**

- **Bristol Myers Squibb** has signed a five-year collaboration agreement with machine learning specialist **insitro** to develop drugs for *amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)* and *frontotemporal dementia*.
- **Sanofi** has entered an agreement with **MSD** to collaborate on a phase II trial evaluating its investigational candidate *THOR-707* alongside MSD's immunotherapy *Keytruda*.
- **Novartis** has acquired **Vedere Bio**, adding novel optogenetic gene therapy technology for treating blindness
- **Bayer** has struck a deal to acquire **Asklepios BioPharmaceutical** for \$2 billion upfront. The deal will give them control of an adeno-associated virus (AAV) gene therapy platform

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### **Further Reading:**

- The NCEP have published an update to their **Antivirals for treatment of COVID-19 A Rapid Evidence Review** | Latest Update 27 October 2020 |
- **NICE** has released new guidance recommending that people with **womb cancer** should be tested for an inherited genetic condition.
- Ireland's willingness to embrace innovation is far ahead of other countries in the EU, according to **Andres Rodrigo**, General Manager at **AbbVie Ireland**.
- Alternative routes of administration – a focus on **oral biologics**: **Shawn Davis**, Head of Drug Delivery, BioPharmaceuticals Development, R&D at **AstraZeneca**

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### **Something different!**

*The news is full of negativity just now, so each week we'll leave you with something a little bit lighter....*

- First full moon on Halloween night since 1955 will be rare 'blue moon'. Astronomy Ireland are urging everyone to 'get out and look on the spookiest of nights'

[LINK](#)