

November 4, 2016



**DCAT**  
**TOP** ↑  
**Industry**  
**NEWS**

***BUSY WEEK?** Here are the  
TOP INDUSTRY NEWS stories  
you might have missed, as  
selected by DCAT Editorial  
Director Patricia Van Arnum.*

**1. [Pfizer Halts Development of Lipid-Lowering Drug](#)**

Pfizer has halted the global clinical development program for bococizumab, a drug candidate in a new class of anti-cholesterol drugs, proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9 (PCSK9) inhibitors. Two PCSK9 inhibitors, respectively by Sanofi and Amgen, which were approved last year, are projected by some analysts to be potential blockbusters. [Read More](#)

**2. [Merck KGaA Investing \\$275 Million in Manufacturing and Life Sciences in China](#)**

Merck KGaA has inaugurated its EUR 170 million (\$189 million) pharmaceutical plant in Nantong, China, which includes an initial investment of EUR 80 million (\$89 million) and an additional planned investment of EUR 90 million (\$100 million). The company also is investing EUR 80 million (\$89 million) in a life science center near the Nantong plant to manufacture high-purity inorganic salts, cell-culture media, and other media products. [Read More](#)

**3. [EMA Accepts Mylan's Filing for Biosimilar of Sanofi's Lantus Insulin Analog](#)**

The European Medicines Agency has accepted for review Mylan's marketing authorization application for insulin glargine, a long-acting insulin analog, and a potential competitor to Sanofi's Lantus, the company's top-selling product with 2015 global sales of EUR 6.4 billion (\$7.1 billion). Mylan is developing the biosimilar with Biocon, an biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Bangalore, India. [Read More](#)

**4. [Astellas To Acquire Ganymed in Deal Worth \\$1.4 Billion](#)**

Astellas Pharma has agreed to acquire Ganymed Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company in Mainz, Germany focused on antibody therapeutics for cancer, in a deal worth up to \$1.4 billion. [Read More](#)

**5. [Kaléo Re-Launches Epinephrine Auto-Injector](#)**

Kaléo, a privately held pharmaceutical company headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, has said it will reintroduce its Auvi-Q (epinephrine injection, USP) auto-injector, for treating severe allergic reactions, to the US market in the first half of 2017. The product would be a competitor to Mylan's EpiPen Auto-Injector, which has received recent attention involving pricing for the product. [Read More](#)

**6. [Lonza Opens Drug Product Service Laboratories](#)**

Lonza has opened pharmaceutical drug product services laboratories in Basel, Switzerland that will initially focus on formulation development, drug product analytical development, and quality control. The laboratories represent an entry by Lonza, a CMO specializing in the development and manufacturing of active ingredients (small molecules and biologics), into drug product services. [Read More](#)

## 7. [Sanofi, Regeneron Get Complete Response Letter from FDA for Arthritis Drug](#)

Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals have received a Complete Response Letter (CRL) from the FDA regarding a biologics license application (BLA) for sarilumab, a drug for treating moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis. The CRL refers to certain deficiencies identified during a routine GMP inspection of the Sanofi Le Trait facility in the Haute-Normandie region in France where sarilumab is filled and finished. The news is part of this week's *DCAT Value Chain Insights' Pipeline News*. [Read More](#)

## 8. [Ashland Opens Excipient Manufacturing Facility in China](#)

Ashland has opened a new manufacturing facility for excipients in Nanjing, China that will make cellulose-based and polyvinylpyrrolidone-based polymer excipients. The company also announced an upgrade of its pharmaceutical technical center in Shanghai. [Read More](#)

## 9. [Daiichi Sankyo Forms Licensing Pact for Abuse-Deterrent Opioid](#)

Daiichi Sankyo has formed a strategic collaboration with Inspirion Delivery Sciences, a Basking Ridge, New Jersey-based specialty pharmaceutical company, to commercialize an abuse-deterrent opioid and to develop another. [Read More](#)

## 10. [Sanofi Forms Zika Vaccine Research Pact](#)

Sanofi and its vaccines global business unit, Sanofi Pasteur, have formed a collaboration with a Brazilian research institute and the US government for Zika vaccine development. [Read More](#)

*The DCAT organization is happy to provide this service to its members each Friday.  
Have a great weekend!*

### About Top Industry News

The DCAT organization recognizes its members have minimal time to keep up with the continuous flow of news covering this dynamic industry. To help ensure our members never miss the most important stories impacting the global pharmaceutical manufacturing industry, we will deliver each Friday, the week's Top Industry News, as selected by DCAT Editorial Director Patricia Van Arnum.



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