

This Week's **Top** Industry News

Provided as a service to DCAT member companies each Friday.

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

1. [Novartis Announces Organizational and Leadership Changes](#)

Novartis has announced several organizational and leadership changes in an effort to improve efficiency and to generate cost savings of \$1.0 billion by 2020. The plan includes centralizing its manufacturing operations across divisions within a single technical operations unit and to increase group-wide coordination of drug development by establishing a single global head of drug development. [Read More](#)

2. [FDA Approves Merck & Co.'s Hepatitis C Combo Therapy](#)

The FDA has approved Merck & Co.'s Zepatier (elbasvir and grazoprevir) for treating adult patients with chronic hepatitis C virus genotype (GT) 1 or GT4 infection, with or without ribavirin. The drug is pegged by some analysts as a potential blockbuster and marks the latest entry in the hepatitis C market. [Read More](#)

3. [Gilead Sciences Names New Executive Chairman and New CEO](#)

In a move of internal changes, Gilead Sciences has named current chairman and chief executive officer (CEO), John C. Martin, as executive chairman. John F. Milligan, currently president and chief operating officer, will be promoted to CEO. [Read More](#)

4. [Merck KGaA Names Heads of North American and China Biopharmaceutical Businesses](#)

Merck KGaA, has appointed two new heads for its biopharmaceutical businesses in North America and China. Gary Zieziula will lead the biopharmaceutical business in North America, and Marc Horn will take the helm of the company's biopharmaceutical business in China. [Read More](#)

5. [FDA Accepts Amgen's BLA for a Biosimilar of AbbVie's Humira](#)

The FDA has accepted for review Amgen's biologics license application for ABP 501, a biosimilar candidate to Humira (adalimumab). Humira was AbbVie's best-selling drug in 2014 with revenues of \$12.5 billion. [Read More](#)

6. [Sandoz's Lek Invests in Final Dosage Form Biosimilar Capabilities](#)

Lek, a Sandoz company, the generics arm of Novartis, has invested EUR 10 million (\$10.8 million) at its site in Menges, Slovenia, to add new laboratories for the development of final dosage forms for biosimilars, quality control, and biopharmaceuticals technical development. [Read More](#)

7. [Sanofi, Iran Sign Memorandum of Collaboration](#)

Sanofi and the Iran Food and Drug Administration, affiliated to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran, have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to start discussions to explore the possibilities in which Sanofi can collaborate to advance pharmaceutical manufacturing and development in the country. [Read More](#)

8. [Allergan, AstraZeneca Partner for Antibiotic for Drug-Resistant Infections](#)

Allergan has entered into a global agreement with AstraZeneca to develop and commercialize ATM-AVI, an investigational, fixed-dose antibiotic combining aztreonam and avibactam. The pact is part of an effort by the US and European Union to advance antibiotics for drug-resistant infections. [Read More](#)

9. [FDA Publishes List of Guidances Scheduled for 2016](#)

The FDA has published its guidance agenda for calendar year 2016 and identified the new and revised draft guidances that FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research plans to publish during calendar year 2016. The list includes guidances on biosimilarity, chemistry, manufacturing and controls, manufacturing and quality, including on data integrity, and generics. [Read More](#)

10. [AstraZeneca, GSK, J&J Form New Consortium](#)

AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, and Johnson & Johnson have partnered with three universities, Imperial College London, the University of Cambridge and University College London (UCL), to create the Apollo Therapeutics Fund, which aims to convert the academic science from the three universities into innovative medicines for a broad range of diseases. [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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