Essjay Solutions Ltd Newsletter

July
2026

Sagittal Pharma
CONSULTING
POWERED BY
essjay
SOLUTIONS LTD

Minutes New signals detected from EU spontaneous reporting systems

EU referral procedures for safety reasons – Urgent EU procedures

Newly triggered procedures

None

Ongoing procedures

None

Procedures for finalization

None

EU referral procedures for safety reasons - other EU referral procedures

Newly triggered procedures

None

Ongoing procedures

None

Procedures for finalization

None

Re-examination procedures

None

Others

None

New signals detected from EU spontaneous reporting systems

Atogepant – AQUIPTA (CAP)

Scope: Signal of insomnia

Atogepant – AQUIPTA (CAP); **Erenumab** – AIMOVIG (CAP); **eptinezumab** – VYEPTI (CAP); **fremanezumab** – AJOVY (CAP); **galcanezumab** – EMGALITY (CAP); **rimegepant** – VYDURA (CAP)

Scope: Signal of Raynaud's phenomenon

Oseltamivir – TAMIFLU (CAP); **zanamivir** – DECTOVA (CAP)

Scope: Signal of new information on the safety in patients critically ill with influenza

Sacituzumab govitecan – TRODELVY (CAP)

Scope: Signal of interstitial lung disease

Selpercatinib – RETSEVMO (CAP)

Scope: Signal of lymphangiectasia intestinal

Sevoflurane (NAP)

Scope: Signal of acute encephalopathy in patients carrying the mitochondrial DNA variant m.11232T>C

Signals follow-up and prioritization

Desogestrel (NAP), **etonogestrel** (NAP)

Scope: Signal of meningioma

Levonorgestrel intrauterine device 13.5 mg (Jaydess/Fleree) (NAP)

Scope: Signal of increased risk of ectopic pregnancy

Venlafaxine (NAP)

Scope: Signal of cardiotoxicity

Variation procedure(s) resulting from signal evaluation

None

AbbVie's Rinvoq approved by European Commission for non-segmental vitiligo

Rinvoq is the first and only systemic medication approved in the EU for NSV

"The approval provides a new treatment option for this chronic autoimmune condition"

AbbVie's Rinvoq (upadacitinib) has been approved by the European Commission for adults and adolescents aged 12 years and older with non-segmental vitiligo (NSV) who require systemic therapy.

It is the first and only systemic medication approved in the EU for NSV, supported by phase 3 Viti-Up trial data showing efficacy and safety in adult and adolescent patients. The approval provides a new treatment option for this chronic autoimmune condition, which can significantly affect quality of life and mental health.

EMA recommends granting marketing authorisation approval for Nezglyal

The treatment is for cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy, a rare neurodegenerative disease

"The recommendation is based on phase 2/3 NEXUS1 data and real-world evidence"

The EMA's CHMP has recommended approval of Nezglyal (leriglitazone) under exceptional circumstances for boys aged 2–12 years with cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy (cALD) and Gadolinium-negative brain lesions.

The recommendation is based on phase 2/3 NEXUS1 data and real-world evidence, addressing a major unmet need as there are currently no approved pharmacological treatments for cALD in the EU. European Commission approval is expected by September 2026, with further trials ongoing to expand its potential use.

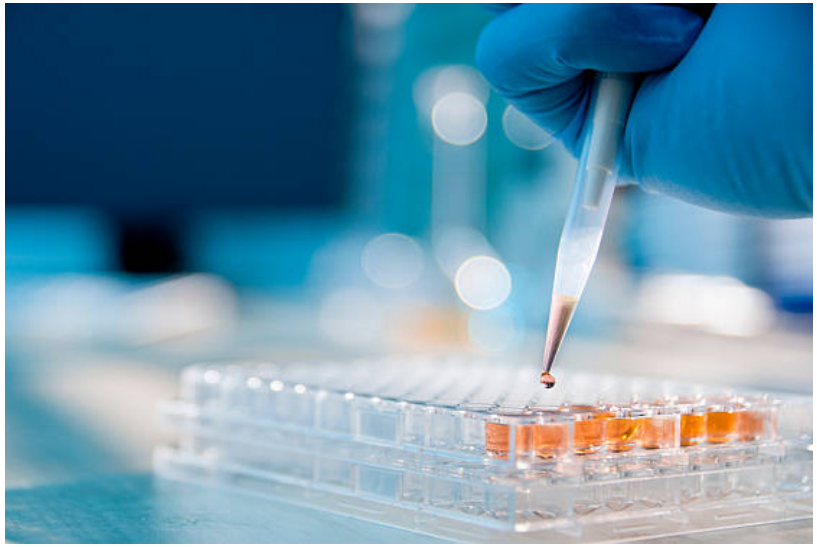
AstraZeneca's Trixeo recommended by CHMP for approval in EU for asthma

Asthma affects over 360 million people worldwide, including over 40 million people in Europe

"The recommendation could expand access for patients whose asthma remains uncontrolled on dual therapy"

AstraZeneca's Trixeo Aerosphere (Breztri Aerosphere in some markets) has received a positive CHMP recommendation for approval in the EU as a maintenance treatment for asthma in patients aged 12 and older.

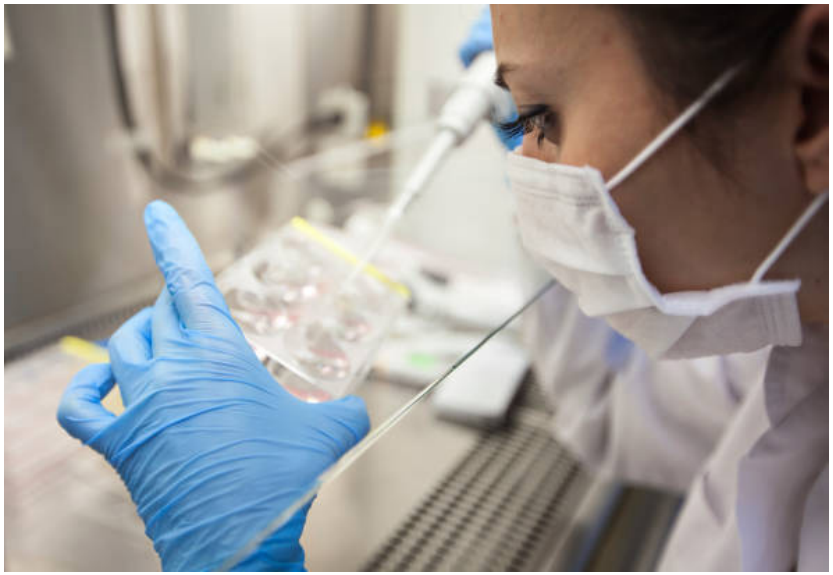
The single-inhaler triple therapy combines inhaled corticosteroid (ICS), long-acting beta2-agonist (LABA) and long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA), with phase 3 KALOS and LOGOS trials showing improved lung function compared with ICS/LABA therapy. The recommendation could expand access for patients whose asthma remains uncontrolled on dual therapy.



Almirall's paediatric registration of Ebglyss for atopic dermatitis gets EMA acceptance

Atopic dermatitis affects a significant number of children and adolescents and often peaks in childhood

"The potential expansion aims to address unmet needs in younger patients"



Almirall's application to extend approval of Ebglyss (lebrikizumab) for children and adolescents aged six months to under 18 years with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis has been accepted by the EMA.

The submission is supported by phase 3 ADorable-1 and long-term ADorable-2 data, showing improvements in skin clearance, disease severity, itch and quality of life, with a safety profile consistent with existing approvals. The potential expansion aims to address unmet needs in younger patients, as atopic dermatitis commonly begins in early childhood and can have long-term impacts on quality of life.

Teva submits FDA application for paediatric Tourette syndrome therapy

Ecopipam could become the first new FDA-approved treatment for paediatric Tourette syndrome in over ten years

"If approved, it would be the first new FDA-approved therapy for the condition in over a decade"

Teva Pharmaceutical has submitted an FDA New Drug Application for ecopipam as a potential treatment for paediatric Tourette syndrome.

If approved, it would be the first new FDA-approved therapy for the condition in over a decade. Supported by phase 3 data showing a significant delay in symptom relapse compared with placebo, ecopipam is a selective dopamine D1 receptor antagonist that has received FDA Orphan Drug and Fast Track designations. The submission aims to address ongoing unmet needs for children and adolescents whose symptoms are not adequately controlled by existing treatments.

Boehringer Ingelheim's Jascayd approved by MHRA for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

This is the first treatment breakthrough in pulmonary fibrosis in over a decade

"NICE is currently evaluating Jascayd for NHS use, with guidance expected in September 2026"

Boehringer Ingelheim's Jascayd (nerandomilast) has received MHRA marketing authorisation for adults with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) and progressive pulmonary fibrosis (PPF).

Based on phase 3 trials involving more than 2,300 patients, it is the first treatment of its kind licensed for these conditions and aims to address significant unmet need by slowing lung function decline. NICE is currently evaluating Jascayd for NHS use, with guidance expected in September 2026.

Bristol Myers Squibb's New Drug Application for mezigdomide accepted by FDA

Mezigdomide improves progression-free survival in patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma

"Mezigdomide is designed to enhance cancer cell killing and immune activation, with further trials ongoing"

Bristol Myers Squibb's New Drug Application for mezigdomide has been accepted by the US FDA for patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM).

The oral CELMoD therapy, combined with carfilzomib and dexamethasone (MeziKd), demonstrated a 52% reduction in the risk of disease progression or death compared with standard treatment in the phase 3 SUCCESSOR-2 trial. Mezigdomide is designed to enhance cancer cell killing and immune activation, with further trials ongoing. The FDA has set a target action date of 13 May 2027.

Pfizer announces phase 3 results for nonsegmental vitiligo treatment

Litfulo delivered significant, clinically meaningful improvements for both face and body

"Pfizer plans global regulatory submissions for Litfulo as a potential oral systemic treatment for adults with NSV"

Pfizer has reported positive phase 3 results for Litfulo (ritlecitinib) in patients with active and stable nonsegmental vitiligo (NSV).

In the TRANQUILLO and TRANQUILLO 2 trials, both 50 mg and 100 mg once-daily doses achieved significant improvements in facial and total body repigmentation compared with placebo. Pfizer plans global regulatory submissions for Litfulo as a potential oral systemic treatment for adults with NSV, addressing an unmet need in this chronic autoimmune condition.

A seat at the table: what the EU HTA reforms really ask of patient involvement

The EU HTA reforms give patients a formal role in assessing new medicines, but meaningful involvement requires more than simply offering them a seat at the table

"A key change is the formal inclusion of patients in shaping assessments"

The EU Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Regulation introduced a shared European approach to evaluating new medicines, with Joint Clinical Assessments (JCAs) replacing separate national clinical reviews.

While the reform aims to reduce duplication and improve access, its impact is still emerging, with wider application expanding through 2030. A key change is the formal inclusion of patients in shaping assessments, including defining relevant outcomes, comparators and evidence needs. However, meaningful patient influence requires more than participation – it depends on adequate support, accessible processes and ensuring patient perspectives genuinely inform decisions.

Pfizer's Talzenna plus Xtandi gets FDA Priority Review for metastatic prostate cancer

The phase 3 trial showed greater than 50% improvement in radiographic progression-free survival

> *"If approved, the treatment would expand from metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer to an earlier disease setting"*

The US FDA has accepted Pfizer's supplemental New Drug Application for Priority Review of Talzenna (talazoparib) plus Xtandi (enzalutamide) for men with HRR gene-altered metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer (mCSPC).

The application is supported by phase 3 TALAPRO-3 data showing the combination reduced the risk of radiographic progression or death by 52% compared with Xtandi alone. If approved, the treatment would expand from metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer to an earlier disease setting, with an FDA decision expected in Q4 2026.

Takeda's zasocitinib shows high rates of skin clearance in phase 3 psoriasis studies

Globally, an estimated 64 million people have psoriasis, with about 80-90% of those having plaque psoriasis

> *"Takeda plans to submit regulatory applications for psoriasis and is also evaluating zasocitinib in other immune-mediated conditions"*

Takeda has reported positive phase 3 data for zasocitinib (TAK-279), a once-daily oral TYK2 inhibitor, in adults with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis.

The treatment demonstrated consistent skin clearance across difficult-to-treat areas, including the scalp, nails, palms and soles, compared with placebo. Takeda plans to submit regulatory applications for psoriasis and is also evaluating zasocitinib in other immune-mediated conditions, including psoriatic arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease and vitiligo.

What do patient stories actually teach us?

How do we translate individual experiences into support that helps others and create support that feels personal but remains relevant to many?

> *"Effective patient support should recognise individual experiences while addressing common barriers to better health outcomes"*

Patient stories provide valuable insights into the realities of living with a condition, but they are only the starting point for designing effective support.

By combining empathy with behavioural science, healthcare organisations can understand the deeper reasons behind behaviours such as treatment avoidance or non-adherence, including concerns around identity, autonomy and daily challenges. Translating these shared psychological drivers into practical, creative support can help patients build confidence, motivation and capability. Effective patient support should recognise individual experiences while addressing common barriers to better health outcomes.

Infographic: Are data blind spots putting your launch at risk?

"The solution is designed to help teams improve decision-making through integrated intelligence capabilities"

Pharmaceutical launches can be hindered by fragmented data across multiple systems, making it harder for teams to assess market readiness and make informed decisions.

InConcert™ aims to address this by combining omnichannel, field, clinical and predictive insights into a single platform, enabling faster, evidence-based commercial launch planning. The solution is designed to help teams improve decision-making through integrated intelligence capabilities and clearer visibility across launch activities.

More Than Pink Walls: What Women-Centric Care Actually Requires

"The concept of "bikini medicine" highlights how limiting women's health to reproductive and breast health can overlook major causes of death"

Women-centric healthcare requires more than branding or cosmetic changes; it requires redesigning care around women's biology, experiences and needs.

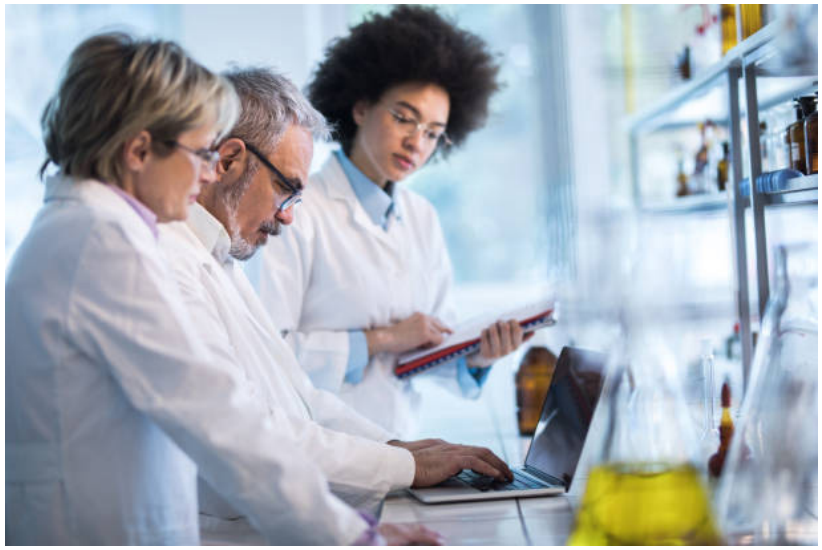
The concept of *"bikini medicine"* highlights how limiting women's health to reproductive and breast health can overlook major causes of death, including heart disease and lung cancer. Experts argue that clinicians should treat women's experiences as valuable clinical data, build care pathways around female physiology and strengthen patient trust through better communication. Improving women's healthcare is not only a health priority but also a strategic opportunity for healthcare organisations to build long-term patient loyalty and engagement.

Why faster trials make participant understanding more important than ever

"Informed consent for clinical trials should prioritise understanding rather than simply providing lengthy documentation"

As clinical trials accelerate, clear, accessible consent is essential to help participants understand, engage with and remain in a study.

Informed consent for clinical trials should prioritise understanding rather than simply providing lengthy documentation. While regulatory reforms are accelerating trial approvals, patients still need time, clear explanations and opportunities to ask questions before agreeing to participate. Long consent forms filled with complex language often create confusion rather than informed decision-making. A better approach treats consent as an ongoing conversation, using plain language, logical structure and accessible formats to support diverse participants. As clinical trials become faster, ensuring genuine understanding will be essential for patient trust, retention and study quality.



Veradermics' oral treatment for female pattern hair loss delivers positive study results

Pattern hair loss affects around 30 million women and 50 million men in the US

"Designed to provide sustained minoxidil release while reducing peak drug exposure, VDPHL01 is being evaluated in further trials"

Veradermics has reported positive phase 2 results for VDPHL01, an extended-release oral minoxidil formulation, in women with mild-to-moderate pattern hair loss.

The study showed early hair growth improvements, with around 89–90% of participants reporting improved or much improved outcomes after six months of treatment. Designed to provide sustained minoxidil release while reducing peak drug exposure, VDPHL01 is being evaluated in further trials and could become the first FDA-approved oral non-hormonal treatment for pattern hair loss in both men and women if approved.

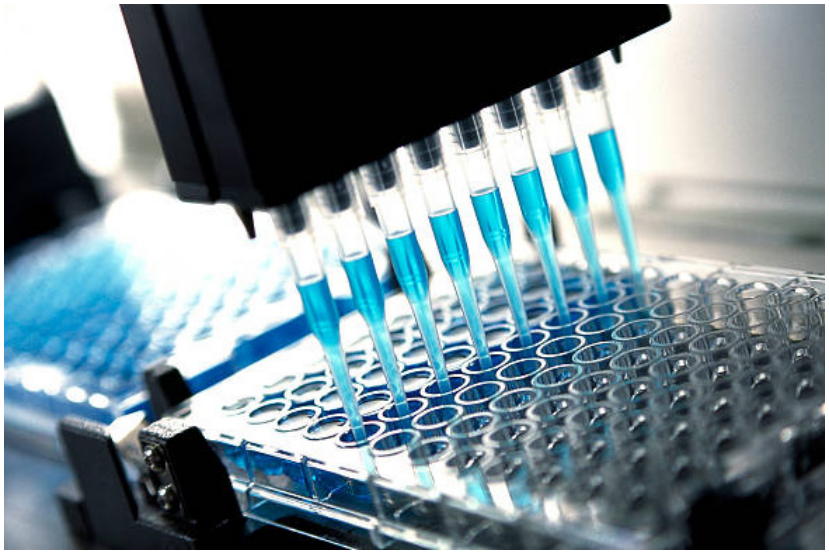
Sanofi announces phase 3 study data for infantile-onset Pompe disease

Pompe disease is a rare, progressive neuromuscular disease, with infantile onset being the most aggressive form

> *"At 52 weeks, patients were alive and free of invasive ventilation, with additional improvements in disease progression measures"*

Sanofi has reported positive phase 3 Baby-COMET results showing that Nexviazyme (avalglucosidase alfa) met its primary and all secondary endpoints in treatment-naïve infants aged six months or younger with infantile-onset Pompe disease (IOPD).

At 52 weeks, patients were alive and free of invasive ventilation, with additional improvements in disease progression measures. The findings support Nexviazyme's potential use in IOPD, a severe, rapidly progressing genetic neuromuscular disorder, and will underpin a planned US label extension submission in the second half of 2026.



Moving Beyond the 10%: A New Era in Preterm Birth Prevention

"The findings highlight the potential of personalised, risk-based care to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes"

A new biomarker-based approach could improve the prediction and prevention of spontaneous preterm birth, a condition affecting around 10% of US pregnancies and remaining a leading cause of neonatal death.

By analysing placental proteins from a maternal blood sample early in pregnancy, clinicians can identify women at high risk more accurately than relying on previous birth history alone. In the PRIME study, high-risk women who received a preventive care bundle – including low-dose aspirin, vaginal progesterone and weekly nurse support – experienced a 20% reduction in severe neonatal morbidity, a 52% reduction in births before 32 weeks, and fewer NICU admissions. The findings highlight the potential of personalised, risk-based care to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes.

The UK's life sciences' crossroads: competing in a market defined by speed, scale and investment

The UK's challenge is less about capability and more about how well it aligns with the way global pharma now operates

> *"The UK's challenge is not a lack of capability but adapting to the evolving priorities of global pharma"*

The global life sciences sector is becoming increasingly competitive, with pharmaceutical investment decisions driven by market opportunity, speed to revenue and geopolitical factors rather than sentiment.

The UK's challenge is not a lack of capability but adapting to the evolving priorities of global pharma, with companies taking a more cautious approach to investment. Europe faces growing pressure between the commercially attractive US market, with faster access and greater pricing flexibility, and China's rapidly expanding innovation ecosystem. Lower pricing environments and market fragmentation are making Europe less competitive for future life sciences investment.

Older trial participants reject bad design, not technology

"The assumption that older adults reject digital clinical trials is misleading"

Older trial participants aren't rejecting digital technology – they're rejecting poorly designed, inaccessible experiences that make participation harder.

The assumption that older adults reject digital clinical trials is misleading. Many older patients actively use digital health tools, access medical information online and seek clinical trial opportunities; the real barrier is often poor design rather than age or willingness. Confusing interfaces, limited accessibility and lack of support can discourage participation and affect recruitment, retention and data quality. Age-inclusive digital trial design – supported by flexible options such as phone support, caregiver involvement and accessible content – can improve engagement for older adults and benefit all participants.

Biogen and Eisai's Leqembi study shows nearly 83% of early Alzheimer's patients remained stable or improved

The real-world findings support the long-term benefits of continuous treatment

"The interim analysis of 432 patients found consistent outcomes across demographic and genetic groups"

Biogen and Eisai reported real-world data from the three-year LEADER Study showing that 82.5% of early Alzheimer's disease patients treated with Leqembi (lecanemab) remained stable or improved after an average of 17 months of therapy.

The interim analysis of 432 patients found consistent outcomes across demographic and genetic groups, with nearly 87% choosing to continue treatment. The study supports the potential of ongoing Leqembi therapy to help slow disease progression and maintain patients in earlier stages of Alzheimer's disease.

Cases of skin cancer set to reach 263,000 in 2035 according to new report

The report forecasts a rise in cases in the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and Europe

"The US is expected to record the highest number of cases, while Australia continues to have the highest incidence rates"

GlobalData forecasts that diagnosed melanoma cases across the US, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the UK, Canada and Australia will rise from 229,000 in 2025 to 263,000 by 2035, representing an annual growth rate of 1.47%.

The US is expected to record the highest number of cases, while Australia continues to have the highest incidence rates due to greater UV exposure and population susceptibility. Most melanoma cases are diagnosed at stage 1, reflecting improvements in awareness, early detection and public health initiatives aimed at reducing UV-related risk.

Johnson & Johnson commits $5.5bn to end remaining talc litigation

The resolution comes after plaintiffs were unable to prove that J&J's talc products caused their ovarian cancer

"The agreement includes a $5.5 billion commitment, with initial payments of up to $3 billion expected from 2027"

Johnson & Johnson has agreed to resolve remaining talc litigation with leading plaintiff firms, subject to participation from at least 95% of outstanding claims.

The proposed settlement follows a court ruling challenging plaintiffs' ability to prove that the company's talc products caused individual cases of ovarian cancer. The agreement includes a $5.5 billion commitment, with initial payments of up to $3 billion expected from 2027. Johnson & Johnson said the resolution allows it to move beyond the litigation and focus on its healthcare businesses.

Zymeworks to acquire Theravance Biopharma in deal worth $929m

The acquisition will give the company access to a treatment for COPD

"Following completion, Zymeworks will retain Theravance Biopharma's R&D assets for evaluation within its broader pipeline"

Zymeworks has agreed to acquire Theravance Biopharma for approximately $929 million, adding COPD treatment Yupelri to its partnered portfolio.

Marketed in the US since 2019 through a collaboration with Viatris, Yupelri is the only once-daily nebulised LAMA for COPD maintenance treatment. Following completion, Zymeworks will retain Theravance Biopharma's R&D assets for evaluation within its broader pipeline, supporting its strategy to diversify through partnered revenue and innovative drug development.

Alzheimer's groups call for urgent global focus on women's brain health

New op-ed published by leaders from the Women's Alzheimer's Movement at Cleveland Clinic, Alzheimer's Research UK and the Alzheimer's Association

> *"Maria Shriver, Hilary Evans-Newton and Joanne Pike highlight that women account for nearly two-thirds of Alzheimer's diagnoses"*

Leading Alzheimer's organisations are calling for women's brain health to become a central focus of global women's health strategies.

Maria Shriver, Hilary Evans-Newton and Joanne Pike highlight that women account for nearly two-thirds of Alzheimer's diagnoses, yet female brain health remains under-researched and underprioritised. They argue that greater investment in research, prevention and care is needed to address the growing health and economic burden of dementia, which is projected to reach $2.8 trillion globally by 2030.

Forging a connection through creativity

A spark of creativity can cut through complexity, adding real value and helping to forge true connections with patients

"Like a diamond, a successful campaign combines clarity and precision, cutting through complexity and competitive noise to deliver meaningful messages"

Effective pharmaceutical campaigns require more than eye-catching creative execution; they need strong foundations built on deep understanding of disease, markets, patient behaviour and unmet needs.

Like a diamond, a successful campaign combines clarity and precision, cutting through complexity and competitive noise to deliver meaningful messages. Patient involvement, including listening and co-creation, is increasingly essential as healthcare shifts towards personalised narratives that better reflect patient experiences and support engagement.

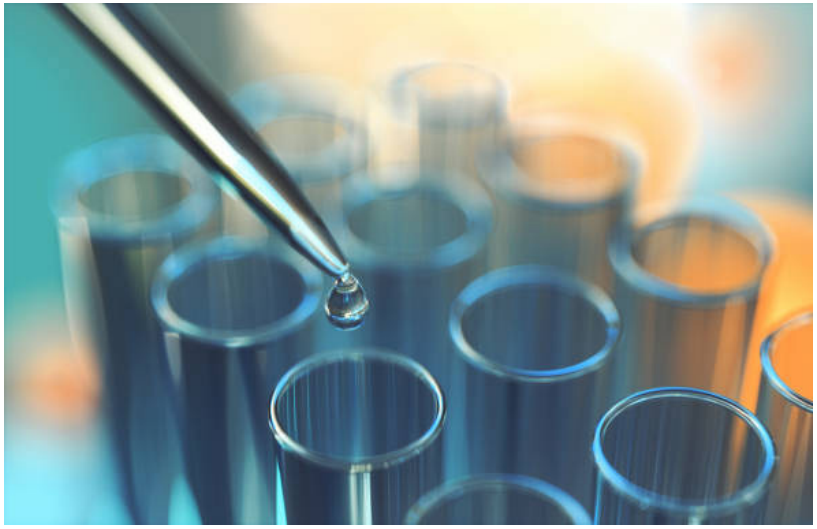
Inizio launches Connected Insights

Through Inizio Engage, Connected Insights aims to help pharma and biotech companies transform Medical Information

"The service operates across more than 20 languages, helping organisations derive greater value from medical engagement data worldwide"

Inizio Engage has expanded its Global Medical Information capabilities with Connected Insights, a platform designed to transform Medical Information interactions into strategic intelligence for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

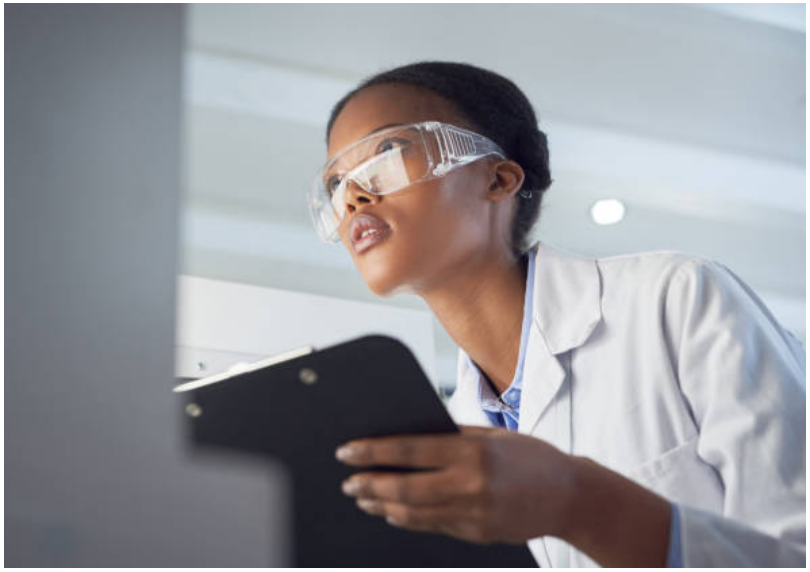
By combining global infrastructure, APAC expertise and AI-enabled tools, the initiative aims to identify trends, understand healthcare professional and patient needs, and support Medical Affairs strategy while maintaining compliance and scientific accuracy. The service operates across more than 20 languages, helping organisations derive greater value from medical engagement data worldwide.



Achieving launch excellence through cross-functional collaboration

'Cross-functional collaboration that's grounded in a clear evidence roadmap is the foundation for successful, sustainable launches'

"Companies must also adapt to evolving pricing and reimbursement dynamics, including changing launch sequencing and growing demand for real-world evidence"



Launch excellence now begins well before commercialisation, with successful launches driven by early cross-functional planning across clinical, regulatory, commercial and market access teams.

Developing a strong target product profile (TPP), generating HTA-ready evidence, and aligning clinical endpoints with payer and patient needs from early clinical development help maximise regulatory approval, reimbursement and adoption. Companies must also adapt to evolving pricing and reimbursement dynamics, including changing launch sequencing and growing demand for real-world evidence. Avoiding common pitfalls – such as weak value propositions, poor comparator data and siloed execution – requires integrated teams, clear accountability and stakeholder engagement. As launch complexity increases, strategic partnerships and coordinated evidence, access and commercial planning are becoming essential for sustainable launch success.

Medical-Commercial alignment in rare disease launches: what breaks first?

Alignment is not proven by whether teams are coordinated, it is proven by whether their combined efforts are sustained

"A MAPS EMEA roundtable highlighted that true alignment is a cultural outcome driven by patient-focused leadership"

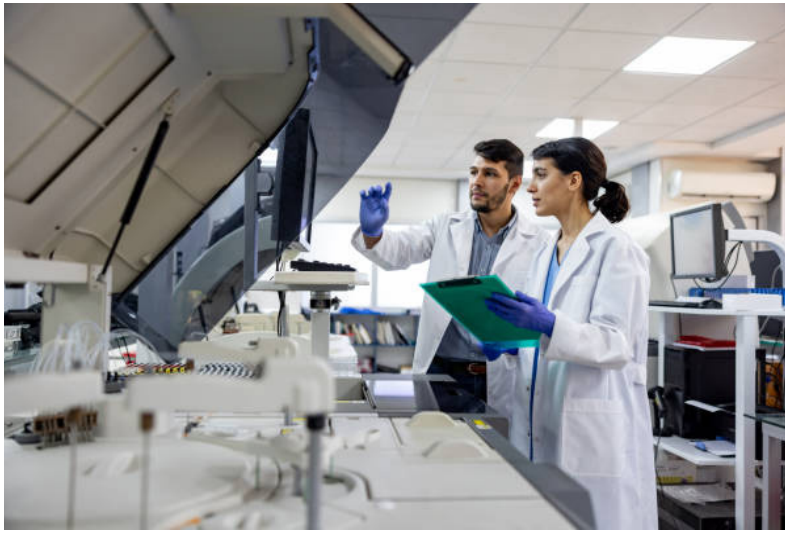
Rare disease launch success depends on Medical and Commercial alignment being established well before launch, with failures often rooted in early decisions around trial design, ownership, insights and leadership culture.

A MAPS EMEA roundtable highlighted that true alignment is a cultural outcome driven by patient-focused leadership, not simply launch processes or frameworks. Key challenges include insufficient Medical input into clinical development, ineffective insight capture systems and unclear ownership of stakeholder engagement, data dissemination and safety communications. To improve outcomes, organisations should involve Medical Affairs earlier in evidence planning, build stronger insight-to-action systems and reduce internal reporting burdens to focus on external engagement and changing clinical practice.

Lilly to acquire AtaiBeckley in deal worth $2.8bn

The acquisition will advance therapies for treatment-resistant depression and other mental health conditions

> *"The acquisition also adds VLS-01, a buccal DMT formulation in phase 2b development"*



Eli Lilly has agreed to acquire AtaiBeckley for $2.8 billion, expanding its neuroscience portfolio with rapid-acting neuroplastogen therapies for mental health conditions.

AtaiBeckley's lead asset, BPL-003 (mebufotenin benzoate), is an intranasal 5-MeO-DMT therapy for treatment-resistant depression that has shown rapid and sustained symptom improvements in phase 2b trials and has received FDA Breakthrough Therapy Designation.
The acquisition also adds VLS-01, a buccal DMT formulation in phase 2b development, as Lilly aims to advance treatments targeting underlying mechanisms of psychiatric disease.

Klick Health acquires Oxford PharmaGenesis

The move expands Klick's scientific expertise in oncology and rare diseases

> *"The acquisition expands Klick's expertise in areas including oncology, rare diseases, real-world evidence (RWE) and health economics"*

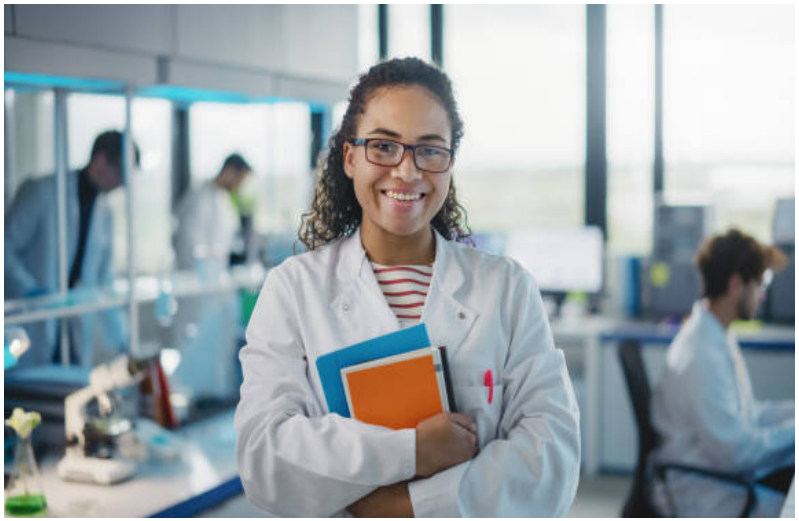
Klick Health has acquired healthscience communications consultancy Oxford PharmaGenesis to strengthen its scientific and commercial capabilities for life sciences clients.

The acquisition expands Klick's expertise in areas including oncology, rare diseases, real-world evidence (RWE) and health economics and outcomes research (HEOR), while combining the companies' medical and commercial communications strengths. Together, they aim to help clients accelerate commercial success through integrated scientific, medical and market access strategies across the product life cycle.

Novartis to acquire Myricx Bio in deal worth $1.5bn

Myricx, a UK-based biotech, is developing a new class of antibody-drug conjugates

"Myricx's lead programmes target B7-H3 and HER2 in solid tumours, with preclinical data suggesting potential activity in resistant cancers"



Novartis has agreed to acquire UK-based biotech Myricx Bio for $1.1 billion upfront, plus up to $400 million in milestone payments, to strengthen its oncology pipeline.

The acquisition would add Myricx's novel antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) technology, which uses N-myristoyltransferase inhibitor (NMTi) payloads designed to overcome limitations of existing ADC payloads such as TOPO-1 inhibitors. Myricx's lead programmes target B7-H3 and HER2 in solid tumours, with preclinical data suggesting potential activity in resistant cancers. The deal aims to establish NMTi as a new ADC payload class if clinical validation is achieved, with completion expected in the second half of 2026.

Vertex to acquire Crinetics in deal worth around $10bn

The deal includes an approved treatment for acromegaly and other pipeline candidates

"Vertex aims to leverage its rare disease commercial expertise to accelerate these therapies"

Vertex Pharmaceuticals has agreed to acquire Crinetics Pharmaceuticals in a deal valued at approximately $10 billion, expanding its portfolio into endocrine diseases.

The acquisition adds Palsonify (paltusotine), the first once-daily oral treatment for adults with acromegaly, and atumelnant, a phase 3 candidate for congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH). Vertex aims to leverage its rare disease commercial expertise to accelerate these therapies, while gaining Crinetics' pipeline of novel endocrine medicines. The transaction is expected to close in the third quarter of 2026.

Ipsen to acquire Memo Therapeutics in deal worth more than €700m

The deal expands the company's rare disease portfolio

"Potravitug is designed to block viral entry and replication and has received FDA Fast Track and EU Orphan Drug designations"

Ipsen has agreed to acquire Memo Therapeutics for more than €700 million, gaining potravitug, a phase 2 monoclonal antibody targeting BK polyomavirus-associated nephropathy (BKPyVAN) in kidney transplant patients.

Potravitug is designed to block viral entry and replication and has received FDA Fast Track and EU Orphan Drug designations. The acquisition strengthens Ipsen's rare disease pipeline, with phase 2 data supporting further development ahead of the planned phase 3 SAFE KIDNEY III trial. The deal is expected to close in Q3 2026.

AstraZeneca agrees on $1.5bn deal with Dizal Pharmaceutical

The company will gain a novel oral treatment for lung cancer

"The agreement includes a $600 million upfront payment, up to $900 million in milestone payments and tiered royalties"

AstraZeneca has entered an exclusive licence agreement with Dizal Pharmaceutical for global development and commercialisation rights to Zegfrovy (sunvozertinib), an oral EGFR inhibitor for patients with EGFR exon 20 insertion non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

Approved in the US and China for previously treated patients, Zegfrovy has also shown positive phase 3 results in first-line NSCLC, supporting regulatory submissions. The agreement includes a $600 million upfront payment, up to $900 million in milestone payments and tiered royalties, with completion expected in the second half of 2026.