



**PHARMACEUTICAL
RESEARCH
RESONATES
IN OUR LIVES.**



PRESS RELEASE: ON THE TRACKS TO INNOVATION

5/21/2021

Over the past decades, (bio)pharmaceutical innovation has considerably improved our daily lives, both in terms of comfort and lifespan. While the average life expectancy is now 81.3 years, premature mortality has decreased by 22% between 2001 and 2015. Innovation has played a major role in these advances.

Medicines are an integral part of our lives. Today, there are one or more treatments, preventive or curative, for most of the diseases and pathologies of which we are aware. But if this represents a colossal advance over the last few decades, there is still a lot to be done, especially in terms of rare diseases or cancer treatment.

The pharmaceutical industry works daily to prioritize diseases based on the need for innovation and the potential benefit of that innovation to patients and society. As such, **the industry is focused on addressing significant unmet medical needs** and changing treatment paradigms and/or having a significant impact on systems.

Promising treatments coming soon

In 2020 alone, more than 5,000 clinical trials were initiated in many therapeutic areas. A quarter of these studies were devoted to oncology, 18% to infectious diseases, 10% to neurology and 8% to hematology*. High-prevalence indications, such as lung, breast and prostate cancer, remain priority areas for clinical development in oncology. Beyond oncology, diseases with a high societal impact, such as infectious diseases (including COVID-19), neurology and respiratory disorders, dominate the field.

These advances will allow for many **promising therapies** to be brought to market in the coming years, such as treatments for Alzheimer's, **gene therapies or CAR-T therapies** (genetically modified cells that target a specific tumor antigen), particularly in the treatment of cancers and tumors. Other highly anticipated advances are **messenger RNA vaccines** - which have monopolized the web since the

beginning of the pandemic - in the treatment of cancers or curative therapies for hepatitis B and HIV, avoiding lifelong treatments for patients.

A transversal approach

In this process, **collaborations** with other industry players (universities, companies, governments, patient associations...) are essential to ensure that the benefits are realized in practice. Thus, adapting regulatory approval processes, valuing and rewarding innovation, developing new financing models, implementing new pathways and infrastructures for integrated care delivery and the digitization of health data will be able to **bring more effective and targeted treatments to patients**.

*IQVIA, 2020



About [APL, Association pharmaceutique luxembourgeoise](#).

The APL is the grouping of the innovative and active pharmaceutical industry in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. We regroup 57 pharmaceutical laboratories. Our mission is to promote the best health care in encouraging therapeutic innovation in the field of humane medicines in Luxembourg. The APL is organized in the form of a non-profit association (a.s.b.l.) and is registered in the Register of Commerce and Companies of Luxembourg under the number F8922.

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