

EDITORIAL



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Dear Readers,

From the point of view of social needs and expectations, the pharmaceutical industry is one of the most important and, at the same time, very controversial, branches of modern global industry. Citizens, as potential users of the final product, expect quick and unlimited access to a full range of medicinal products (including pharmaceuticals) at affordable prices, and on the other hand, openly manifest their limited confidence in investment preferences of the pharmaceutical industry, being convinced that pharmaceutical companies allocate too large financial outlays for own product advertising, instead of investing them in research on new drugs. This ambivalent attitude to the pharmaceutical industry is to a large extent a reflection, and at the same time results from the fact that it is an atypical industry with a specific internal structure and the unique scope and nature of business operations.

This specificity of the pharmaceutical industry significantly and multifaceted affects the multi-stage process of launching on the market a new pharmaceutical product. From the nature of things, this process is very time-consuming, extremely costly and burdened with high risk, because the positive end result, in the form of a new drug available on the pharmaceutical market, is unknown for a long period of research. If these specific conditions we add to economic and environmental conditions, it turns out that from the point of view of the medicine manufacturer, the probability of the final success is significantly reduced. For the sector operating in such conditions, the last 10-12 years was quite a challenge, and the traces of stagnation from the Great Recession period in the first decade of the 21st century are still visible today.

However, the latest reports indicate that in the next five years, the pharmaceutical industry will operate in a very good business climate. The scale of the projected development can be well illustrated by the example of the expected increase in pharmaceutical companies' revenues from the sale of prescription drugs. Income from this title is expected to grow regularly from 2017 at a rate of 6.5% per annum, reaching 1.06 trillion US \$ in 2023 [see: *World Preview 2017, Outlook to 2022, EvaluatePharma, 2017*]. Considering the fact, that leading pharmaceutical companies allocate about 18% of their revenues to R&D budget, we can conclude, that only the profits from prescription drugs sale, will power this budget by the amount of about 200 billion US \$ annually, in the next few years [see: <https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/060115/how-much-drug-company-spending-allocated-research-and-development-average.asp>].

The fundamental question automatically appears. Who, apart from investing companies, will participate in the division of this budget? The answer can start with a quite obvious statement that pharmaceutical companies will certainly look for collaborators for extensive research on new drugs. Who will be among these collaborators is not so obvious. One can only hope that a large part of this budget will go to cooperators from academic centers, which have very substantial research potential. For this to happen, however, certain conditions must be met. About the most important of them, my colleagues from the Editorial Board of IRJPS wrote in Editorial letters to the previous issues of our journal. They boil down to the establishment at all levels (governments, ministries, universities) of transparent legal acts, explicitly formulating the terms of cooperation between industry and science, as well as clearly defining the status of an academic worker and the related requirements.

I encourage to read the publications we have included in this issue of IRJPS.

With best wishes

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