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▶ GLOBAL NEWS

1.1. **Pharmaceutical Market Grew by 5.3% in 2011**

April 20, 2012

- Decision Resources, a research and advisory firm for pharmaceutical and healthcare issues, found that in 2011, the global pharmaceutical market, in dollar terms, benefitted significantly from positive currency effects.
- According to new data from Decision Resources' Pharmaview suite, global pharmaceutical sales grew year-over-year by a respectable 5.3% to reach \$707 billion, compared with 3.6% year-over-year growth in 2010. The relative weakness of the dollar in 2011 compared to 2010 played a large part in this growth, and many of the major drug companies, such as Pfizer, Abbott, Eli Lilly and Johnson & Johnson all reported positive currency effects in the 2-4% range in 2011.

1.2. **Many Medical Implants Never Tested for Safety**

April 22, 2012

- A new investigation by Consumer Reports revealed that while millions of American consumers have medical devices implanted in their bodies, many of these implants have never been tested for safety.
- Manufacturers often are required to do nothing more than file paperwork and pay a user fee before bringing products to market. In fact, because of our broken regulatory system, in such cases the only safety "testing" that occurs is in the bodies of unsuspecting patients.

1.3. **Court Accepts Merck' \$950M Vioxx Settlement**

April 20, 2012

- Drugmaker Merck & Co. Inc. said that a federal court accepted its \$950 million payment to resolve an investigation into the marketing of its painkiller Vioxx.
- The court also accepted Merck's guilty plea to one misdemeanor count of violating marketing laws.

1.4. **EU Body Backs AstraZeneca, Bristol's Diabetes Drug US Rejected**

April 20, 2012

- Advisers to the European drug regulator recommended approval of an experimental diabetes drug that was rejected by U.S. regulators earlier this year amid concerns about its safety.
- Shares of the drug's co-developers, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. (BMY) and AstraZeneca PLC (AZN), rose after the recommendation, which surprised some analysts who had largely written off the drug, dapagliflozin, after the U.S. Rejection.

1.5. **FDA Program to Foster Innovation Starts with Kidneys**

April 10, 2012

- Three experimental kidney devices may reach patients sooner under a plan from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that would change the way the agency deals with medical innovation.
- One of the three technologies, from the University of California, San Francisco, combines a dialysis device that is implanted in the gut with live kidney cells. A second device, From Beverly Hills, California-based Blood Purification Technologies Inc, is a wearable artificial kidney. The third, a Hemoaccess Valve System made by Greenville, South Carolina-based CreatiVasc Medical, modulates blood flow between dialysis and regular kidney functions.



1.6. Aspirin Helps Reduce Overall Cancer Incidence

April 10, 2012

- Daily aspirin might lower both overall cancer incidence and overall cancer mortality, even at low doses (75-100 mg daily), say researchers.
- New data showing aspirin's potential role in reducing the risk of cancer death bring us considerably closer to the time when cancer prevention can be included in clinical guidelines for the use of aspirin in preventative care, according to a new report by American Cancer Society scientists.

▶ DOMESTIC NEWS

2.1. Ranbaxy Launches India's First Anti Malarial drug 'Synriamtm' on World Malaria Day

April 26, 2012

- India on Wednesday (25th April 2012) launched its first indigenously launched anti-malaria new-age drug 'Synriam'. The drug, produced by Ranbaxy Laboratories, was formally introduced for marketing here.
- The drug, launched by Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad in the presence of Science and Technology Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, has been developed by the company in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology and supported by the Indian Council for Medical Research.

2.2. Piramal Healthcare Ltd. Acquires Molecular Imaging Development Portfolio of Bayer Pharma

April 15, 2012

- Piramal Healthcare Limited announced that it has signed an agreement to acquire worldwide rights to the molecular imaging research and development portfolio of Bayer Pharma AG ("Bayer") through its newly created subsidiary Piramal Imaging SA.
- The portfolio includes rights to florbetaben, which is in the final stages of its Phase III clinical trials. First Phase III results will be presented on April 25th 2012 at the American Academy of Neurology's 64th Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

▶ REGULATORY UPDATES

3.1. DCGI to Initiate Steps to Implement e-Governance

April 26, 2012

- With a view to upgrade the regulatory system in the country so that it can be at par with other international regulatory bodies, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has recently expressed its plans to implement e-Governance programme throughout the country soon.
- Through this programme, the DCGI wants to make the regulatory system 'paper-less' by adopting computerisation so that the Indian regulatory system becomes IT enabled, bringing in more transparency and accountability to its system.



3.2. Mylan Sues FDA

April 09, 2012

- Mylan Inc. announced that its subsidiary, Mylan Pharmaceuticals Inc., has filed suit against the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia seeking to overturn a decision by FDA, which awarded Teva sole 180-day exclusivity for the generic version of its affiliate Cephalon's Provigil®.
- The Complaint alleges that Teva did not maintain valid paragraph IV (PIV) certifications as a result of its acquisition of Cephalon.

3.3. Texas Accused of Ignoring FDA on Stem Cell Rules

April 10, 2012

- Texas proposed adult stem cell regulations, up for approval this week, are under fire for circumventing the Food and Drug Administration and making the experimental therapy commercially available before it's been proven safe and effective.

3.4. CDSCO Expanding to Enforce New Clinical Trial Rules in India

April 17, 2012

- The Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has sought stricter oversight of clinical trials following claims of poor safety controls and violations. Hence, Indian regulators are adding staff and resources to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in order to enforce more stringent clinical trial guidelines for medical devices and pharmaceuticals.

➤ DRUGS IN DEVELOPMENT

4.1. First Targeted Nanomedicine To Enter Human Clinical Studies

April 05, 2012

- A team of scientists, engineers and physicians from Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI), Harvard Medical School (HMS), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), BIND Biosciences, Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), Wayne State University Karmanos Cancer Institute, and Weill Cornell Medical College have found promising effects of a first-in-class targeted cancer drug called BIND-014 in treating solid tumors.
- BIND-014 is the first targeted and programmed nanomedicine to enter human clinical studies.

4.2. Turmeric Lowers Post Operative Risk Of A Heart Attack

April 18, 2012

- Turmeric may help lower heart attack risk in people post bypass surgery, thanks to curcumin, the yellow pigment present in the spice which has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.

**4.3. Abbott's Investigational Treatment for Advanced Parkinson's Disease**

April 18, 2012

- Abbott announced the results from a Phase 3 trial evaluating the company's investigational compound for advanced Parkinson's disease, levodopa-carbidopa intestinal gel (LCIG).
- The study showed that patients treated with LCIG for 12 weeks reported clinically meaningful and statistically significant improvements in "off" time compared to levodopa-carbidopa immediate release (IR) tablets, without increasing troublesome dyskinesia. "Off" time refers to the periods of poor mobility, slowness and stiffness experienced by patients with Parkinson's Disease.

4.4. CytRx Initiates Phase 2 Clinical Trial with INNO-206 in Pancreatic Cancer

April 26, 2012

- CytRx Corporation, a biopharmaceutical company specializing in oncology, announced the initiation of a Phase 2 clinical trial evaluating the preliminary efficacy and safety of INNO-206 in patients with advanced Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinomas (PDA) who have progressed after receiving two prior therapies.

➤ MERGER AND ACQUISITIONS**5.1. Pfizer Enters Agreement To Divest Nutrition Business To Nestlé For \$11.85 bn**

April 23, 2012

- Pfizer has entered into an agreement to divest its nutrition business to Nestlé for \$11.85 billion in cash. Pfizer's nutrition business recorded revenues of approximately \$2.1 billion in 2011, an increase of 15 per cent versus 2010.

5.2. AstraZeneca to acquire California-based biotech company Ardea Biosciences for \$1.26 bn

April 23, 2012

- Anglo-Swedish drug company AstraZeneca PLC is buying Ardea Biosciences, Inc., in a deal which values the U.S. biotech company at \$1.26 bn. AstraZeneca agreed the takeover with San Diego-based Ardea, which is developing a treatment for elevated blood levels of uric acid in patients with gout. AstraZeneca is paying \$32 per share, representing a 54 percent premium on the closing share price.

5.3. Baxter Completes Purchase of SIGMA International

April 26, 2012

- Baxter International Inc. announced that it has completed the purchase of SIGMA International General Medical Apparatus, LLC., a privately held company based in Medina, New York, by acquiring the remaining 60 percent of the company for a cash payment of approximately \$90 million.
- In 2009, Baxter entered into an agreement with SIGMA for the exclusive global distribution of its infusion pumps, a 40 percent equity stake in SIGMA, and an option to purchase the remaining 60 percent of SIGMA.



▶ THE BITTER TASTE OF SUGAR

God made sugar difficult to get; however human brain made it easy. It was difficult for our ancestors to get sugar easily. They used to get sugar either in the form of fruits or honey. In the name of modernisation sugar has been added to nearly almost all processed foods.

Let's Consider Toxicity

Beyond simply adding calories, sugar is the main culprit that induces many diseases associated with metabolic syndrome. Fructose increases uric acid in turn increases peripheral resistance and cause hypertension. By increasing insulin resistance and increased glucose production in the liver leads to Diabetes (its truth that our grandmothers were used to say that “if you eat more sweet it will cause Diabetes”). It can cause severe damage to lipids, proteins and DNA and results in aging. Alcohol is derived from the fermentation of sugar and some early studies have shown that unwarranted consumption of fructose can cause many of the same health problems as alcohol.

Potential for Abuse

Yes, Sugar has noxious potential of abuse like Tobacco and alcohol. It interferes with the normal transport and signalling of the hormone leptin, which helps to produce the feeling of being satiated.

Sugar and Weight Gain

Only a small portion i.e. 300500 g carbohydrates can be stored as glycogen in the human body, any excess must be oxidized or converted to fat by de novo hepatic lipogenesis may result in increase weightgain and obesity which is a major global epidemiological problem.

DEADLY EFFECT¹	
Chronic Alcohol Use	Chronic Fructose Use
Hypertension	Hypertension (uric acid)
Cardiomyopathy	Myocardial infarction (dyslipidaemia, insulin resistance)
Dyslipidaemia	Dyslipidaemia (de novo lipogenesis)
Pancreatitis	Pancreatitis (hypertriglyceridaemia)
Obesity (insulin resistance)	Obesity (insulin resistance)
Malnutrition	Malnutrition (obesity)
Hepatic dysfunction (alcoholic steatohepatitis)	Hepatic dysfunction (non-alcoholic steatohepatitis)
Addiction	Habituation, if not addiction

¹Courtesy: Lustig, R. H. J. Am. Diet. Assoc. 110, 13071321 (2010)

Sugar Inhibits Salivary Protein

By inhibiting salivary protein sugar poses severe problems mainly in Tannin absorption. Tannins are polyphenolic compounds commonly found in Tea, Red wine, Beer and in some legumes. Salivary proteins act as a defence against tannins by forming complexes with them and thereby preventing their interaction with other biological compounds and absorption from the intestinal canal. Thereby the negative effects are nullified. Sugar inhibits these salivary proteins and all problems of Tannins will be observed in humans like inhibition of mineral absorption from the intestine, growth retardation in children, and chronic hepatotoxicity etc.

Hence shall we have some **SUGARLESS** days in a week that will reduce the toxic effects of sugar.