



The Pharmacist Activist

Volume 5, No. 12 • December 2010

Editorial

Appreciation and Anticipation

With this issue we mark the completion of the fifth year of publication of *The Pharmacist Activist* (all issues are available on the website, www.pharmacistactivist.com). My motivation to continue publishing this newsletter is derived from the positive responses I receive from many readers. I very much appreciate these responses, the vast majority of which are supportive of the opinions I voice in editorials and the ratings I provide for new drugs. However, I also welcome the responses that do not agree with my opinions because the greater awareness of differing perspectives regarding challenging issues may bring us closer to solutions and courses of action that will better serve our patients, communities, and profession. If you know pharmacists and pharmacy students who are not presently receiving *The Pharmacist Activist*, please encourage them to go on the website and sign up to receive it. As an alternative, you could submit the necessary information for them and then inform them that you have provided them with a gift of a lifetime subscription to *The Pharmacist Activist*.

NEWS-Line Publishing produces this newsletter at its cost, and I wish to express my personal appreciation to Jeff Zajac, Joe Monte, John Buck, Chris Polli, and Patrick Polli for their expertise and enthusiasm in publishing *The Pharmacist Activist*. Although I do not receive compensation for my responsibility as author/editor, there are considerable expenses in producing this newsletter. I wish to express my deep appreciation to a friend who has provided financial support because of his commitment

to advance the profession of pharmacy through stimulation of discussion/debate on important issues and challenges, as well as objective information on new drugs.

Many of the topics considered in the editorials in *The Pharmacist Activist* represent problems that may seem impossible to resolve. Some of the problems that have continued over a period of years have more recently been joined by the challenges of health insurance reform legislation and the tightening of the job market for pharmacists. However, the value of the role of our profession and the expertise and services of pharmacists makes it imperative that we not give up in our efforts to convert problems into opportunities and, indeed, that we strengthen our efforts and our activism in achieving positive outcomes. One of the reasons for which I continue to be highly enthusiastic about the future of our profession and can strongly encourage young people to consider pharmacy as a career is that, in my long experience, there has not been another time when there has been a greater need for the expertise of pharmacists. Much remains to be done in obtaining respect, utilization, and compensation for our expertise but, for the sake of our patients and communities, as well as for our profession, we must do it! Therefore, it is with anticipation of greater progress toward this goal that I look forward to what we can accomplish in 2011.

Best wishes for a healthy and enjoyable new year!

Daniel A. Hussar

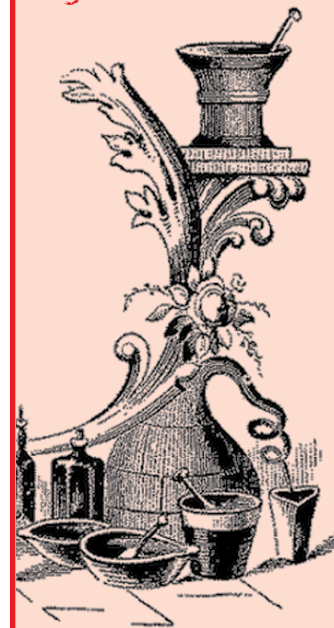
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New therapeutic agents marketed in the United States in 2010

Generic name	Trade name	Manufacturer	Therapeutic classification	Route of administration	FDA classification ^a	New Drug Comparison Rating ^c
Cabazitaxel	Jevtana	Sanofi-Aventis	Antineoplastic agent	Intravenous	1-P	4
Carglumic acid	Carbaglu	Orphan Europe	Agent for hyperammonemia	Oral	1-P	4
Collagenase clostridium histolyticum	Xiaflex	Auxilium	Agent for Dupuytren's contracture	Intralesional	5 ^b	5
Dabigatran etexilate mesylate	Pradaxa	Boehringer Ingelheim	Anticoagulant	Oral	1-P	4
Dalfampridine	Ampyra	Acorda	Agent for multiple sclerosis	Oral	1-P	4
Denosumab	Prolia	Amgen	Agent for osteoporosis	Subcutaneous	5 ^b	4
Dienogest/estradiol valerate	Natazia	Bayer	Contraceptive	Oral	1, 4-5	3
Ecallantide	Kalbitor	Dyax	Agent for hereditary angioedema	Subcutaneous	P ^b , 0	4
Eribulin mesylate	Halaven	Eisai	Antineoplastic agent	Intravenous	1-P	4
Fingolimod hydrochloride	Gilenya	Novartis	Agent for multiple sclerosis	Oral	1-P	4
IncobotulinumtoxinA	Xeomin	Merz	Agent for cervical dystonia	Intramuscular	5 ^b	3
Liraglutide	Victoza	Novo Nordisk	Antidiabetic agent	Subcutaneous	1-S	4
Pegloticase	Krystexxa	Savient	Agent for gout	Intravenous	5 ^b	4
Pitavastatin calcium	Livalo	Kowa; Lilly	Lipid-regulating agent	Oral	1-S	2
Polidocanol	Asclera	BioForm Medical	Sclerosing agent	Intravenous	1-S	4
Romidepsin	Istodax	Gloucester	Antineoplastic agent	Intravenous	1-S, 0	3
Sipuleucel-T	Provenge	Dendreon	Antineoplastic agent	Intravenous	5 ^b	4
Tocilizumab	Actemra	Genentech	Antiarthritic agent	Intravenous	5 ^b	4
Ulipristal acetate	ella	Watson	Contraceptive	Oral	1-S	3
Velaglucerase alfa	Vpriv	Shire	Agent for Gaucher disease	Intravenous	1-P	3

^a FDA classification of new drugs: 1 = new molecular entity; 4 = combination product; 0 = designated orphan drug; P = priority review; S = standard review

^b A biological approved through an FDA procedure that does not assign a numerical classification

^c New Drug Comparison Rating (NDCR): 5=important advance; 4=significant advantage(s); 3=no or minor advantage(s)/disadvantage(s); 2=significant disadvantage(s); 1=important disadvantage(s)

Index for Volume 1, 2006

January (No. 1)	The Sleeping Giant • Editor's Note New Drug Review: Pregabalin (Lyrica)
February (No. 2)	The Medicare Prescription Benefit?? • Letter to Senator Rick Santorum New Drug Review: Eszopiclone (Lunesta)
March (No. 3)	A Tribute and a Warning • Letter to President Bush New Drug Review: Ibuprofen (Boniva)
April (No. 4)	Independent Pharmacists—The Front Line of our Profession • Distinguished Leadership New Drug Review: Lubiprostone (Amitiza)
May (No. 5)	The Justice Department Should Not Settle with Medco! • Inspiration New Drug Review: Varenicline tartrate (Chantix)
June (No. 6)	Shame on CVS! • Target Provides some Good Examples New Drug Review: Insulin detemir (Levemir)
July (No. 7)	Pfizer Should Pay Pharmacists to Counsel Patients about Exubera • Sesquicentennial New Drug Review: Insulin glulisine (Apidra)
August (No. 8)	When Price Controls are Established for Drugs, Big Pharma will have Only Itself to Blame A Positive Step New Drug Review: Rasagiline mesylate (Azilect)
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October (No. 10)	Wal-Mart's Generics Scam Ignores the Professional Role of Its Pharmacists It is Almost Election Day! Do You Know What Your Candidates Stand For? New Drug Review: Ranolazine (Ranexa)
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It is important that the development and distribution of *The Pharmacist Activist* be as cost efficient as possible. Therefore, we prefer to send the monthly issues to you via e-mail.

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