

Comments on:

Starving (or Fattening) the Golden Goose? Generic Entry and the Incentives for Early-Stage Pharmaceutical Innovation

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Time of Pharmaceutical Drug Discovery

DRUG DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



Out of every 10,000-15,000 new compounds identified during discovery, five are considered safe for testing in human volunteers. Only one of these compounds is typically approved as a marketed drug.



AVERAGE COST: \$1 billion+

DURATION: 10-15 years*

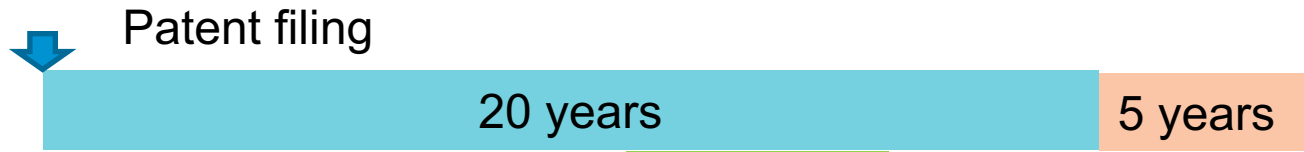
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*Source: ACRO

US Drug Exclusivities: Regulatory and Patent

➤ Patent exclusivity

- ~ 20 years from filing
- Plus patent term extension of 1 patent (up to 5 years) (Hatch-Waxman)



➤ Regulatory exclusivity

- **Small molecules:** 5 years ↑ after NDA approval (Hatch-Waxman)
- Generics can file for approval at 4 years after approval (ANDA)
- If no patent issues, then generic can be approved 5 years after approval
- If patents are in force, generics seek approval after expiration (Para III), or challenge validity/infringement of patents (Para IV). Patent litigation begins.
- 30 month stay of generic approval after Para IV certification for litigation.

➤ Regulatory exclusivity for biologics

- **Biologics:** 12 years total from BLA approval (new law enacted as part of AHCA).
- Biosimilars can file for approval at 4 years from approval (aBLA).
- FDA does not stay approval pending litigation. Can approve biosimilar 12 years after approval.

Comments on Paper

- **Impact of generic entry on early innovation? Sounds reasonable.**
 - Innovator small molecule revenues drop sharply when generics enter market.
 - Pharma now more selective in research.
 - Less revenue means less new research investments.
 - Rationale to increase US regulatory exclusivity for small molecules? Would improve value of developing old molecules for new uses.
- **Move to other therapeutic areas driven by generic entry? Not sure.**
 - Generic entry could be in one disease category, but other diseases could still present therapeutic opportunities.
 - For example, many statins for cholesterol reduction are generic. But pharma have later pursued treatments for atrial fibrillation, congestive heart failure.
- **Move to biologics driven by generic entry? Not sure.**
 - Other factors could play a role in asset valuation: technical advances in developing biologic therapeutics, especially antibodies, have made biologics competitive vs. small molecules and incentivized the shift by pharma.
 - 7 of top 10 selling drug products in 2016 are biologics; 5 are antibodies. There's more to valuing therapeutic opportunities in addition to generic entry.