

In This Issue: March 3, 2020

Research

ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION

834 Profitability of Large Pharmaceutical Companies Compared With Other Large Public Companies

FD Ledley and Coauthors

This study uses data from annual financial reports to compare the profitability of large pharmaceutical companies vs other large companies in the S&P 500 Index from 2000 to 2018, measured via gross profit; earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization; and net income (earnings).

Editorial **826, 829,** and **831**

 CME

844 Estimated Research and Development Investment Needed to Bring a New Medicine to Market, 2009-2018

OJ Wouters, M McKee, and J Luyten

This study uses publicly available data to analyze research and development spending to win FDA approval and bring new drugs to market between 2009 and 2018.

Editorial **826, 829,** and **831**

 CME

854 Changes in List Prices, Net Prices, and Discounts for Branded Drugs in the US, 2007-2018

I Hernandez and Coauthors

This study describes changes in list prices, net prices, and discounts for branded pharmaceutical products in the US between 2007 and 2018 and estimates the extent to which list price increases were offset by increases in discounts.

Editorial **826** and **831**

863 US Health Care Spending by Payer and Health Condition, 1996-2016

JL Dieleman and Coauthors

This study estimates health care spending for the most common health conditions in the United States, including low back pain and musculoskeletal disorders, diabetes, and ischemic heart disease, between 1996 and 2016.

 CME

Opinion

VIEWPOINT

819 Drug Shortages in the United States: Are Some Prices Too Low?

I Hernandez, TB Hershey, and JM Donohue

821 Expanding Access and Reducing Prices for Drugs to Prevent HIV: Should Government Enforce Its Patent Rights Against the Pharmaceutical Industry?

LO Gostin and AK Rai

823 The Probiotic Conundrum: Regulatory Confusion, Conflicting Studies, and Safety Concerns

SB Freedman, D Schnadower, and PI Tarr

A PIECE OF MY MIND

825 The Secret About Achieving Your Dreams

AP Stern

In this narrative medicine essay, a 35-year-old psychiatrist reflects on his dreams in childhood, as an academic, and as a parent of a young child as he faces his own mortality.

EDITORIAL

826 Relentless Prescription Drug Price Increases

C Deb and G Curfman

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829 Are Pharmaceutical Companies Earning Too Much?

DM Cutler

Related Articles **834** and **844**

831 Affording Medicines for Today's Patients and Sustaining Innovation for Tomorrow

KC Frazier


Related Articles **834, 844,** and **854**

 Online at JAMA.com

MULTIMEDIA

 **Editor's Audio Summary:** Listen as editors discuss this week's issue

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 jamanetwork.com/pages/for-authors

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Clinical Review & Education

JAMA CLINICAL GUIDELINES SYNOPSIS

885 Diagnosis and Treatment of Adults With Community-Acquired Pneumonia

G Olson and AM Davis

This JAMA Guidelines Synopsis summarizes the American Thoracic Society (ATS)/Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) 2019 recommendations on diagnosis and treatment of adults with community-acquired pneumonia.

Related Article [887](#)

FROM THE MEDICAL LETTER ON DRUGS AND THERAPEUTICS

887 Corticosteroids in Community-Acquired Pneumonia

This Medical Letter review summarizes evidence underlying American Thoracic Society and Infectious Diseases Society of America guideline recommendations on the use of corticosteroids as an adjunct to antimicrobials for the treatment of community-acquired pneumonia.

Related Article [885](#)

JAMA PATIENT PAGE

902 "Surprise" Out-of-Network Medical Bills

KR Chhabra and JB Dimick

This JAMA Patient Page discusses the issue of surprise medical bills and what steps patients can take to protect themselves from receiving them.

News & Analysis

MEDICAL NEWS & PERSPECTIVES

812 Rebates—The Little-Known Factor Behind Increasing Drug List Prices

R Rubin

This Medical News story examines the role of rebates in drug pricing.

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814 New Insight on Preventing EGFR Inhibitor-Induced Adverse Effects

T Hampton

THE JAMA FORUM

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817 Drug Approved to Aid Youths With Peanut Allergy

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J Harris

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Letters

RESEARCH LETTER

890 Sponsorship and Funding for Gene Therapy Trials in the United States

Z Kassir and Coauthors

This study characterizes government, academia, and private funding for gene therapy trials in the United States by technology type and therapeutic and disease area.

COMMENT & RESPONSE

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Informed Consent for Stem Cell-Based Interventions

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