FAST FACTS

Estimated U.S. Annual Deaths Attributable to Failure to Deliver Recommended Care

Controlling high blood pressure	15,000 – 26,000
Diabetes care (HbA1c control)	4,300 – 9,600
Colorectal cancer screening	4,200 – 6,300
Cholesterol management control	6,900 – 17,000
Flu shots for adults over age 65	3,500 – 7,300
Smoking cessation	5,400 – 8,100
Beta-blocker treatment	900 – 1, 900
Prenatal care	600 – 1,400
Breast cancer screening	600 – 1,000
Cervical cancer screening	600 – 800

Source: *The State of Health Care Quality 2004: Industry Trends and Analysis*. National Committee for Quality Assurance, Washington, D.C. Available online at: *www.ncqa.org/communications/SOMC/SOHC2004.pdf.*

Approved Drugs

● Kosan Biosciences Inc.'s (Hayward, Calif.) anticancer compound **17-AAG** (17-allylamino-17-demethoxy-geldanamycin) was granted orphan drug designation by the FDA for the treatment of multiple myeloma and also for the treatment of chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). An analog of the polyketide geldanamycin, 17-AAG is also being evaluated for the treatment of multiple cancer indications in Phase II, Phase I, and Phase Ib clinical trials, including a Phase Ib trial with Gleevec™ as a combination therapy in CML.

● Vion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (New Haven, Conn.) was granted orphan drug designation by the FDA for **Cloretazine™** (VNP40101M) for the treatment of acute myelogenous leukemia. Cloretazine (VNP40101M) is a sulfonylhydrazine alkylating agent that is being evaluated in a Phase II clinical trial for acute myelogenous leukemia. Vion plans to start a Phase III trial of Cloretazine (VNP40101M) in combination with Ara-C in relapsed acute myelogenous leukemia in 2005.

● The FDA has granted orphan drug status to ADVENTRX Pharmaceuticals, Inc.'s (San Diego, Calif.) **CoFactor™** for the treatment of pancreatic cancer. CoFactor (5, 10-methylenetetrahydrofolate) is a form of folic acid that acts by enhancing the anti-tumor effects of 5-FU while reducing side effects compared to current therapies. CoFactor is currently being tested in a Phase II clinical trial in the U.S. and Europe for metastatic colorectal cancer.

● The FDA has approved **Eloxatin™** (oxaliplatin for injection) (Sanofi-Synthelabo, Paris, France), in combination with conventional chemotherapy (5-FU/LV), for the adjuvant treatment of patients with stage III colon cancer who have undergone complete resection of the primary tumor.

The FDA based its decision on results from the MOSAIC study, a large, international randomized Phase III trial involving 2,246 patients in 146 centers. Results demonstrated that the addition of Eloxatin to conventional adjuvant chemotherapy for colon cancer (5-FU/LV) reduced the risk of recurrence of cancer by 24 percent in the overall patient population who had undergone surgery to remove their primary tumor.

In the United States, Eloxatin received approval on January 9, 2004, for the first-line treatment of advanced carcinoma of the colon or rectum.

● The FDA has approved **Femara®** (letrozole) (Novartis, Basel, Switzerland) for extended adjuvant treatment of postmenopausal women with early breast cancer who have received adjuvant (post-surgery) tamoxifen for five years.

The FDA based its approval on results from the international MA-17 study, which included more than 5,100 postmenopausal women. The study showed that Femara reduced the risk of cancer recurrence by 38 percent and reduced the risk of distant metastases by 39 percent.

Femara is a once-a-day oral aromatase inhibitor that is also indicated for first-line treatment of postmenopausal women with hormone receptor-positive or hormone receptor-unknown locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer; for the treatment of advanced breast cancer in postmenopausal women with disease progression following antiestrogen therapy; and as neo-adjuvant therapy. Not all indications are available in every country.

● The FDA has granted orphan drug designation to Medarex, Inc.'s (Princeton, N.J.) fully human anti-CD30 antibody, **MDX-060**, for the treatment of Hodgkin's disease. MDX-060 targets CD30, a member of the tumor necrosis factor receptor family and a molecule found on activated lymphocytes. CD30 has been found to be over-expressed in several lymphoproliferative disorders and is present on malignant cells of Hodgkin's disease and anaplastic large cell lymphoma, as well as other CD30-positive lymphomas. Currently, Medarex is conducting an expanded dose-ranging Phase II

study with MDX-060 in patients with CD30-positive lymphomas.

- Bayer Pharmaceuticals Corp. and Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (West Haven, Conn., and Richmond, Calif.) announced that **sorafenib** (BAY 43-9006) has been granted orphan drug status by the FDA for the treatment of renal cell carcinoma. Currently in Phase III clinical testing, BAY 43-9006 is a novel RAF kinase and VEGFR inhibitor that is intended to prevent tumor growth by combining two anticancer activities: inhibition of tumor cell proliferation and tumor angiogenesis.

- OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Genentech, Inc. (Melville, N.Y. and South San Francisco, Calif.) announced that the FDA has approved **Tarceva™** (erlotinib) for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) after failure of at least one prior chemotherapy regimen. Tarceva is an oral tablet indicated for daily administration. Tarceva is the only drug in the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) class to demonstrate in a Phase III clinical trial an increase in survival in advanced NSCLC patients.

  The FDA based its approval decision for Tarceva on results from a randomized double-blind, placebo-controlled pivotal Phase III trial of patients with second and third-line advanced NSCLC. In this study, patients receiving Tarceva had a median survival of 6.7 months compared to 4.7 months in patients who received placebo (a 42.5 percent improvement). In addition, 31.2 percent of patients receiving Tarceva in the study were alive at one year versus 21.5 percent in the placebo arm.

- Schering-Plough Corporation announced that the FDA has granted orphan drug designation to **Temodar®** (temozolomide) for the treatment of newly diagnosed high-grade gliomas. Temozolomide is an oral cytotoxic alkylating agent.

  Schering-Plough Corporation (Kenilworth, N.J.) has also been granted six-month priority review status for its supplemental New Drug Application (sNDA) for Temodar® (temozolomide) Capsules for the treatment of gliomas. Schering-Plough is seeking marketing approval for the use of Temodar for the treatment of patients with newly diagnosed high-grade gliomas concomitantly with radiotherapy and then as adjuvant treatment after the patient has completed radiotherapy.

Drugs In the News

- Berlex, Inc. (Montville, N.J., and San Antonio, Tex.) and ILEX Oncology, Inc., announced that the FDA has granted marketing approval for **Campath®** (alemtuzumab for injection), in a new single-dose vial. The new formulation, containing 30 mg/mL of Campath, will be three times more concentrated than the currently marketed Campath ampoule (10 mg/mL).

  A transition to the concentrated vial will have no impact on the current two-hour IV administration of CAMPATH, and the efficacy and safety of CAMPATH (including the side effects profile) are expected to remain the same.

  Following the new single-dose vial launch, the ampoule will remain available for a short time, after which only the new vial will be available.

- Bedford Laboratories (Bedford, Ohio) has received FDA approval to market **Carboplatin Injection**. The product is equivalent to Paraplatin® Injection from Bristol-Myers Squibb. Bedford Laboratories will supply Carboplatin Injection in single dose vials, with a 10 mg/mL presentation in 5 mL, 15 mL, and 45 mL vials, individually boxed.

- The FDA granted Mayne Pharma's (Paramus, N.J.) Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) for **Carboplatin Injection**. Mayne Pharma will make Carboplatin Injection available in 50 mg/5mL, 150 mg/15mL, and 450 mg/45mL presentations.

- American Pharmaceutical Partners (APP) announced FDA approval for the company's Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) for **Carboplatin Injection, USP**, the lyophilized form of carboplatin and the generic equivalent of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company's Paraplatin®.

- The FDA has granted fast track designation for Gloucester Pharmaceuticals, Inc.'s (Cambridge, Mass.) **FK228** (depsipeptide) as monotherapy for the treatment of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) in patients who have relapsed following, or become refractory to, one other systemic therapy. FK228 is currently being evaluated in CTCL and a range of other hematologic and solid tumor indications in Phase II clinical trials. FK228 is one of a new class of anti-cancer agents known as histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors, and is the only bicyclic peptide in this group.

- Genzyme Corp. (Cambridge, Mass.) has submitted an sNDA to the FDA to obtain an additional clinical indication for **Thyrogen®** (thyrotropin alfa for injection). The proposed new indication would permit the drug's use in the ablation of remnant thyroid tissue. Thyrogen is currently indicated for use as a diagnostic tool in the management of patients being tested for recurrence of well-differentiated thyroid cancer.

- Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.) announced that the FDA has granted **Velcade® (bortezomib) for Injection** FDA fast track designation for relapsed and refractory mantle cell lymphoma, an aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), which accounts for approximately 6 percent of all lymphomas. Currently, Velcade is being evaluated as a single agent in a company-sponsored multicenter phase II clinical trial for the treatment of mantle cell lymphoma, in addition to multiple investigator-initiated trials.

  Velcade is currently indicated for the treatment of multiple myeloma patients who have received at least two prior therapies and have demonstrated disease progression on the last therapy.