Swiss duo take the top slots, but the rebel alliance of smaller companies gains further ground

It's not surprising that all of the top 10 have piled into the brave new world of SARS-CoV-2, with a successful pharma industry pushing back the boundaries of science, which remains pre-eminent at the top of our table.

Let's break down those 18,582 drugs into how far up to number two on the back of three acquisitions during the year:

There are some companies whose Anti-Infective bar has noticeably widened this year, immediately, they might have missed the boat somewhat.

All of the top 10 pharma companies have signed up to strike down the virus with great vengeance and furious anger to varying degrees, with our Swiss top pair leading the way.

It seemed like an alien from a distant planet. Going from zero drugs to over 550 represents a phenomenal response by Earth's defence forces to the invasion of the novel coronavirus.

R&D was perhaps somewhat dented by resources redeployed against the pandemic.

BREAST CANCER REMAINS THE INDUSTRY'S LEADING TARGET

Modern healthcare continues to focus on conquering breast cancer, with several companies putting their best efforts into finding a cure.

Join us as we travel back through 2020 to use our findings to project the course of pharma R&D as it navigates through one of the most turbulent periods of modern history, hopefully towards a new, technology-advanced future.

The 2021 Pipeline by Phase

Early stage development saw the majority of growth in the pipeline: 18,582 drugs are in various stages of development, with a significant increase in the preclinical phase.

The pipeline is expanding at a reasonable rate, but only around 6% for the year, while the pipeline sizes for colorectal and pancreatic cancers remain almost unchanged.

IN THE INTERSPECIES WAR

Biotechnology, neurological, anti-infective, and respiratory diseases are the focus for many companies, while dermatological, cardiovascular, and musculoskeletal diseases are also being targeted.

There are also new additions to the pipeline, including COVID-19 prophylactics, COVID-19 complication therapies, and COVID-19 direct therapies.

THE TOP COMPANIES

Novartis is joined at the top of the table this year by its compatriot Roche, both of which were pre-eminent in terms of actual pipeline projects.

AstraZeneca and Merck & Co. follow closely, with significant expansions in their pipelines. Bristol-Myers Squibb and Johnson & Johnson are also making strides, with early-stage discoveries and expansions in their pipeline.

Unquestionably, the top three pharmaceutical companies have been able to deliver, with Novartis and Roche leading the way in terms of originator drugs and pipelines with a significant lead.

Promedior, Foundation Medicine, and Inflazome have all made significant contributions, joining the top 10 companies and receiving significant investments from both private capital and public funding.

The year 2021 has been historic, with companies continuing to invest and collaborate, and while we saw much progress, there is still much work to be done.

THIRD PARTY

COVID-19 PANDEMIC DURING 2020

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