News Updates: October 12-14, 2013

OPPI

Website: Pharmabiz
Edition: Online
Date: 12.10.2013
Headline: Piramal Life's Dr P D Mishra gets 'OPPI Scientist Award 2013'

Synopsis: Piramal Life Sciences' Dr P D Mishra, senior group leader, Natural Product Chemistry, NCE Research, has won 'OPPI Scientist Award 2013' for outstanding performance in natural products drug discovery research. In his endeavour to reduce burden of disease Dr Mishra has discovered and characterized several new and potent compounds from streptomycetes, fungi and plants in the area of infection, cancer and inflammation. Some of these compounds being studied by Piramal Life Sciences in the area of cancer therapy.

Fire in the Blood

Publication: The Times of India
Edition: All editions
Date: 14.10.2013
Page: 14
Headline: Dylan Mohan Gray: International pharma lobby fears India's policies the most

Synopsis: Filmmaker Dylan Mohan Gray spoke with Rema Nagarajan from The Times of India about his documentary Fire in the Blood, portraying Africa's fight for HIV medicines, the controversial role of governments and pharma groups — and why India is central to this picture.

Website: IANS Live
Edition: Online
Date: 14.10.2013
Headline: 'Fire In The Blood' - hard-hitting expose of pharmaceutical companies (IANS Movie Review; Rating: **)

Synopsis: IANS has done a review of the documentary 'Fire in The Blood'. The report talks about the issue it deals with - how the criminal racket allegedly enforced by large pharmaceutical companies to block life-saving drugs from third world countries, mainly Africa, touches all our lives.

Publication: Asian Age
Edition: Online
Date: 13.10.2013
Headline: A fine piece of journalism

Synopsis: Asian Age reviewed "Fire in the Blood" in its online edition yesterday. Suparna Sharma highlights FITB as one of the most telling modern tales of capitalist greed and MNCs' parasitical tendencies that director Dylan Mohan Gray has decided to tell through his documentary. The film tells the story of western pharmaceutical companies in chasing profits made HIV drugs unaffordable for the people, the invention of ARVs, and the struggle of a few men to make the drug affordable. Sharma praised Fire In The Blood as a great piece of investigative journalism, long form, the kind one would often see on BBC and Discovery. It is well researched, answers what, where and why, gives us facts and figures and explains the nitty-gritty of the patent laws that pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer use to their advantage

Publication: Mumbai Mirror

Edition: Online
Date: 12.10.2013
Headline: Film Review-Fire in the Blood

Synopsis: Mumbai Mirror has done a review of the movie 'Fire in The Blood'. The report highlights how western pharmaceutical companies in chasing profits have destroyed the lives of millions across Third World countries and how a developing nation like India has stepped in to change circumstances.
The Mirror review is bad from OPPI's point of view, damning in fact. But the journalist makes an interesting point: the content of the film is worth its weight in gold but the form the director uses to tell his story is outdated. He says the "telling cloud have been a lot more dramatic and reflective of the trailer which was nothing short of sensational"

Publication: Hindustan Times
Edition: Online
Date: 12.10.2013
Headline: Fire in the Blood: an inconvenient truth

Synopsis: Hindustan Times in its review "Fire in the Blood" mentioned FITB as a documentary that documents the tragedy of the poor, the heroism of some of their leaders and blatant admissions by politicians and pharma company honchos. He says the film emerges as the perfect vehicle for a powerful message that has been lost in the cacophony of social media networks and 24x7 news cycles. It is well-shot, sharply edited and has a fluent, convincing narrative.

Publication: IBN Live
Edition: Online
Date: 12.10.2013
Headline: Fire in the Blood review: It tells you how YOU can save Lives

Synopsis: Rajeev Masand in the review highlights how 'Fire in the Blood' raised complex and uncomfortable questions that throws a spotlight on the "crime of the century". He says the documentary slowly uncovers the insidious collaboration between Western pharmaceutical giants and governments once years to withhold HIV treatment for poorer countries in Africa and Asia, just so that they can continue to profit from this monopoly.

Publication: Indian Express
Edition: Online
Date: 12.10.2013
Headline: Movie Review: Fire in the Blood

Synopsis: The movie review by Indian Express talks about 'Fire in the Blood' as a documentary that talks about people affected by AIDS virus and those who are engaged in bringing succour to them - officials, NGOs and other organizations in Asia and Africa. It also highlights the inescapable conclusion: that millions of lives could have been saved if the rampaging greed of the pharma companies and their cohorts in high places, had been replaced by the desire to save lives.

Clinical Trials

Publication: The Hindu Business Line
Edition: All editions
Page: 2
Date: 14.10.2013
Headline: Trial Errors

Synopsis: The Supreme Court's stay on clinical trials of new drugs until a monitoring mechanism is in place has

trained the spotlight on such studies. Drug developers have been accused of luring patients and treating them as guinea pigs. The industry insists it has done no wrong but the truth may lie somewhere in between, reports Hindu Business Line.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line
Edition: Online
Date: 13.10.2013
Headline: Regulations need clarity, says industry

Synopsis: A clinical trial can sometimes be the only option for a terminally ill patient, for whom death is just a matter of time, say advocates of clinical research. The industry says it welcomes stronger laws to protect patients. It is the unclear regulations and delayed approvals that create problems. It is estimated that on an average, the approval for a trial takes two or three months, if direct approval is given. However, if a drug is being tested for the first time, applications are sent to a DCGI committee, which can take three to six months to give its opinion, on the basis of which the DCGI may decide to grant approval.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line
Edition: Online
Date: 13.10.2013
Headline: A fair expectation

Synopsis: India did not have defined compensation rules for victims of clinical trials until 2012, making the process arbitrary. A formula has now been determined by the Government, with compensation in the Rs 4 lakh-Rs 73 lakh range, depending on the age of the patient and the seriousness of the primary illness.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line
Edition: Online
Date: 13.10.2013
Headline: How it happens

Synopsis: Typically medicines go through years of research and tests on animals. If the initial research succeeds, the findings are sent to drug regulators, such as the Central Drugs and Standards Control Organisation in India or the Food and Drug Administration in the US, to seek approval for human testing. Once the regulatory go-ahead is given, the drugs go through four phases of human testing.

FDA

Publication: The Hindu
Edition: Online
Date: 13.10.2013
Headline: Indian drug cos need to shape up as US FDA tightens norms

Synopsis: The pharmaceutical industry has been the subject of increased scrutiny by regulatory bodies worldwide and in the recent past, Indian pharma sector too has witnessed more scrutiny. The US FDA (Food and Drug Administration) is one regulator that requires the highest standards of safety and quality and even as an increasing number of Indian companies are attracted to and have a presence in the U.S. market, this also means that the numbers of inspections and defaults are rising.

Publication: Mail Online India
Edition: Online
Date: 13.10.2013
Headline: MY BIZ: Pharma firms face U.S. wrath over manufacturing standards

Synopsis: It is not just home bred companies Ranbaxy or Wockhardt that have been pulled up by the US drug watchdog for slack manufacturing standards. The USFDA has issued warning letters to several other global

pharmaceutical giants, showing an alarming growth in the violation of Current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP). An analysis of warning letters issued by the USFDA since 2010, shows 66 companies have received such letters during a 42 month period up to June, of which 12 per cent were Indian companies.

Drug Pricing

Publication: Business Standard
Edition: All editions
Page: 4
Date: 13.10.2013
Headline: Distributors unwilling, Centre asks states to ensure supplies

Synopsis: With essential medicines in short supply and major multinational manufacturers saying distributors aren't lifting stocks, the Union government has asked state regulators to intervene.
The development is a sequel to the central government's new price regulation, aiming to cut the prices of some key medicines by up to 90 per cent. Distributors are demanding a rise in their margins; drug manufacturers say they are burdened with a sharp decline in prices. Many companies have alleged that traders are not accepting stocks because of the squeezed trade margins under the new price control. This is in spite of firms having invested considerably in re-packaging.

General Industry

Website: Pharmabiz
Edition: Online
Date: 14.10.2013
Headline: International revenue of 25 pharma cos up by 27.6% in 2012-13, contributes over 67% to total revenues

Synopsis: Despite stiff competition, frequent quality issues and economic slow down experienced in developed countries, India's top 25 pharmaceutical companies continue to register impressive growth in their international business. A Pharmabiz study of the performances of these 25 companies shows that they recorded a growth of 27.6 per cent in consolidated international revenues during the year 2012-13 as compared to 13.8 per cent growth in their domestic sales revenue. The international revenues have contributed major share of 67 per cent in aggregate net sales and that of domestic revenue worked out to 33 per cent.

Website: Pharmabiz
Edition: Online
Date: 14.10.2013
Headline: Health Min yet to decide on prohibiting sale of FDCs approved without DCGI no

Synopsis: The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) is yet to take a decision on banning the controversial FDCs or approaching the court to vacate the interim stay granted by the High Court of Himachal Pradesh on the DCGI directive to file safety and efficacy data on FDC drugs approved by the State Licensing Authorities before October 1, 2012.