

HealthManagement.org

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The Journal

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 8 • 2021 • € 22

ISSN = 1377-7629

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Labs and Drugs

The delivery of high-quality healthcare and the effective treatment of acute and chronic illnesses cannot be achieved without drugs with high efficacy and safety and with laboratories working in the background to undertake basic research and understand the processes behind diseases, mechanism of action of different molecules and presentation of symptoms in patients.

Numerous drugs undergo the process of research and development, and only a selected few make it through the regulatory approval process. Drug development is an expensive and time-consuming venture, and the journey involves many steps and many people.

In this issue, our contributors discuss the importance of drug development in healthcare and the critical role of laboratories. They discuss the essentials of drug development, the importance of introducing advanced treatments that are safe and efficacious, strategies to prevent lab errors and the urgent need to address antibiotic resistance. They also talk about the role of healthcare data, the application of this data and other advanced technology to facilitate the process of drug development and the need for greater investment in research and new drug development.

Ekaterina Kldiashvili provides an overview of the types of errors in clinical laboratories and how the integration of eHealth approaches in routine practice could help reduce them. Maria Carrillo discusses the goals and vision of the Alzheimer's Association and the important role it plays in advancing vital research for the treatment, prevention and cure for Alzheimer's Disease. Samna Ghani discusses the global health issue of antibiotic resistance and explores why the pharmaceutical industry is not developing antibiotics.

In our Management Matters section, Paul Timmers talks about the importance of protecting European interests and sovereignty in health data innovation. In our Winning Practices, Henrique Martins provides an overview of a recent study for the Panel for the Future of Science and Technology and highlights the need for the European Union to use data more effectively to make data-supported public health policy proposals and informed political decisions. Meetali Kakad discusses digitally-enabled integrated care and highlights lessons and measures to increase the success of integrated care plans.

Renato Cuocolo is in the Spotlight in this issue as he discusses the challenges in assessing research quality in radiomics and highlights the transformative potential of radiomics for medical imaging.

We hope you will enjoy this issue. As always, your feedback is welcome.

Happy Reading!

