For more information please contact Helene Gregory at helainegregory@aol.com or 787-438-6110.
About PhRMA

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) represents the country’s leading innovative biopharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies, which are devoted to discovering and developing medicines that enable patients to live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. Since 2000, PhRMA member companies have invested approximately $550 billion in the search for new treatments and cures, including an estimated $48.5 billion in 2012 alone.

Investing in Research and Development

PhRMA companies are leading the way in the search for new cures and treatments. Today, the number of new medicines in development increased from 2,040 in 2001 to 3,240 in 2011. Many of these potential new medicines will fail in clinical trials, but some may represent tomorrow’s new treatments.

The industry has made tremendous gains in the battle against major chronic diseases like HIV/AIDS, once considered a death sentence but now seen as a controllable disease in the United States. Death rates from cancers also have declined steadily, in large part because of new medicines, and biopharmaceutical R&D has led to breakthroughs in treating rare diseases.

This significant commitment to R&D benefits patients but also helps control overall healthcare costs. According to a recent study, annual costs for diabetes care can be up to 48 percent lower for patients who take their diabetes medicines properly.

The impact from the biopharmaceutical sector is evident not only in treatment savings but also in economic activity. Companies in the sector provided more than 674,000 direct jobs in 2009 (the most recent year of available data) and supported a total of 4 million throughout the economy.

Biopharmaceutical companies invest more than 10 times the amount of R&D per employee than all manufacturing industries overall.

Key Facts and R & D Numbers:

- The cost to develop a drug – over $1 billion
- Time to develop a drug – 10-15 years
- Domestic R&D as a percentage of domestic sales – 21.1 % (2011)
- Direct jobs provided by America’s biopharmaceutical companies – 674,000 (2009)
- Supported jobs (including direct and induced) – 4 million (2009)
- Average cost to develop one medicine - $1.3 billion
- Number of new medicines that produce revenues that match or exceed average R&D costs – 2 out of 10
- Number of new medicines that result from ever 5,000-10,000 compounds screened – 1
- Portion of every dollar spent on health care that goes to prescription medicines – 10 cents
- Years of effective patent life for medicines is 11-12 years, about 6-7 years shorter than other products
- For more key facts visit www.phrma.org
Estimated Economic Impact in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico’s bioscience industry is one of the strongest in the world, and still growing. According to the Pharmaceutical Industry Association (PIA) of Puerto Rico, the Island’s bioscience industry has generated close to 25% of the Island’s GDP in the last four decades and continues to be the main generator of exports, responsible for over two thirds of total manufacturing exports. The industry generates $1.1 billion in payroll and supports more than 18,000 direct employees and 68,000 indirect employees, with an average salary of $62,000. In addition, the industry outsources upwards of $150 million per year to local firms and has been responsible for the development of a clinical trials sector, expanding scientific knowledge in Puerto Rico. According to a recent report by the PIA, the biopharmaceutical industry accounts for well over 10% of private employment in Puerto Rico.

PIA estimates total annual investment in clinical testing in Puerto Rico exceeds $35 million, based on interviews with industry professionals. This activity not only generates jobs and incomes, but it also provides the foundations for increasing R & D in Puerto Rico. The existing centers include:

- Clinical Research Puerto Rico, Inc. (CRPR, Inc.)
- Merck
- Universidad de Puerto Rico-Clinical Research Program
- INSPIRA: Instituto Psicoterapéutico de P.R.
- Fundación de Investigación (FDI)
- Puerto Rico Cancer Center (University of Puerto Rico, Medical Science campus)
- Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences (CAIMED- Ambulatory Center for Medical Research)
- Puerto Rico Community Network for Clinical Research on AIDS (PR CONCRA)
- Caribbean Neurological Center
- Fundación Dr. Raúl García Rinaldi, Inc.

Medicare in Puerto Rico

Through Part D, thousands of seniors have dependable drug coverage that is affordable and fits their needs. For 670,000 Puerto Rican seniors, people with disabilities and their caretakers, Part D is a critical part of the health care support needed to ensure the best health possible.

- Puerto Rico Medicare offers Part D recipients more than 14 choices of prescription drug plans to choose from, with 7 of those plans offering $0 deductibles.
- Dual eligible and beneficiaries with limited incomes exhibit the highest satisfaction rate with their drug coverage.
- By 2013, CBO reduced its ten-year cost estimate for Medicare Part D estimate by 45%, with the correlating 10-year baseline cost forecast for Part D lowered by $100 billion in each of the last three years.
- Since 2006, the annual total cost for drugs under Medicare’s Part D program have shown little increase, and the 2010 growth rate for medicines was the lowest in the 50 years since reporting began.
Clinical Trials in Puerto Rico
Pharmaceutical companies or conducting or have conducted more than 785 trials on the island since 1999, many of those trials still recruiting. Clinical trials are critical to the latest breakthroughs in health care, while also beneficial to the island’s most vulnerable patients and Puerto Rico’s economy. Many of these trials are conducted at the top academic universities throughout Puerto Rico.

For the economy, clinical trials involve the university medical schools and science centers, hospitals and clinical research organizations. Those trials account for 45 to 75 percent of the average $1.2 billion cost of developing a new drug.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance
The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) connects underinsured and financially struggling patients with more nearly 500 patient assistance programs that provide free or nearly free prescription medication.

The PPA service quickly helps patients find out if they qualify for programs and begin the application process for patient assistance. Patients can access the PPA by calling the toll-free phone number 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669) or by visiting the PPA website at www.pparx.org.

Since the national PPA launch in April 2005, more than 7.5 million Americans have been matched to a patient assistance program, including more than 30,906 Puerto Ricans.

Prescription Drug Abuse: What PhRMA Is Doing to Help
PhRMA has implemented multiple nationwide initiatives in an effort to combat the growing problem of prescription drug abuse. Detailed information about those initiatives is available at http://www.phrma.org/prescription-drug-abuse. Broadly, these initiatives aim to:

• Promote secure storage of prescription medicines,
• Educate about the safe disposal of unused or expired prescription medicines, and
• Strengthen law enforcement penalties for the diversion of prescription drug to unintended parties

Safe Medicine Disposal: SMARxT Disposal
SMARxT Disposal is a public awareness campaign partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Pharmacists Association, and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. For more information, consult your pharmacist or visit our website at www.smarxtdisposal.net.

SMARxT Disposal encourages everyone to dispose of medications safely. Medication should never be flushed or poured in the sink. Safe home disposal methods include:

• Pour medication into a sealable plastic bag. If medication is a solid, add water to dissolve.
• Add kitty litter, sawdust, or coffee grounds to the plastic bag.
• Seal the plastic bag and dispose in the trash.
Costs of Chronic Disease in Puerto Rico

According to the US Census, heart disease, cancer, injury, chronic lung disease and stroke make up the top five causes of death in the island.

- In spite of these dangers, nearly half of all patients do not take their medications as prescribed, and more than 1 in 5 prescriptions go unfilled.
- Adherence is lowest among patients with chronic illnesses, and increases the likelihood of preventable disease progression, increased hospitalizations, avoidable doctor and emergency room visits, and other problems arising from poor health, which can significantly increase health care costs.

According to the 2009 Almanac of Chronic Disease, the amount of lost productivity due to seven of the most common chronic diseases, or $1 trillion, could have paid for:

- 20 million jobs at a salary level of $50,000.
- 13.3 million jobs at a salary level of $75,000.
- 8 million jobs at a salary level of $125,000
- 13.7% Puerto Ricans remain unemployed as of May 2013, compared to 7.5% unemployed on US mainland.

Some chronic diseases can be disproportionately affected by a lack of access to or adherence with their prescription medicine; HIV/AIDS and mental illness are both good examples.

- Puerto Rico has an HIV death rate higher than any U.S. state or territory, a rate nearly 4 times the national rate.
- As of 2009, the HIV/AIDS Surveillance System in Puerto Rico indicates that a total of 33,277 cumulative cases of AIDS have been diagnosed and reported since the first individuals were diagnosed in the early 1980’s.
- According to SAMSA, severe mental illness fewer than half of adults with a serious mental illness (SMI) received treatment or counseling for a mental health problem during the past year.
- Recent data on Puerto Ricans point to higher rates of depression, substance use and anxiety than other Latino groups (Acevedo et al, 2007).

New Medicines in Development for Puerto Rico Patients

More than 5,000 new medicines are in the pipeline globally, and of these medicines in various phases of clinical development, 70 percent are potential first-in-class medicines, which could provide exciting new approaches to treating disease for patients.

The momentum of drug discovery is particularly important for Puerto Rico, which has the highest rate of diabetes in the nation. With that in mind, biopharmaceutical companies are developing 221 new medicines for diabetes, many of which are in clinical trials or awaiting approval by the FDA.

Many of the new medicines in the pipeline are also for diseases for which no new therapies have been approved in the last decade. For example, there are 158 potential medicines for ovarian cancer, 19 for sickle cell disease and 41 for small cell lung cancer.
Connecting With PhRMA

Find PhRMA Online

- Website – http://www.phrma.org
- Facebook – www.facebook.com/PhRMA
- Blog – www.phrma.org/catalyst
- Twitter – www.Twitter.com/PhRMA and www.Twitter.com/PhRMApres
- YouTube – www.youtube.com/PhRMApres

For information on how innovative medicines save lives, visit: http://www.innovation.org
For information on the Partnership for Prescription Assistance, visit: http://www.pparx.org
For information on ensuring the flow of medicines during public health emergencies, visit http://www.rxresponse.org

PhRMA Contacts for Puerto Rico

- PhRMA Alliance Development Contact:
  Helaine Gregory
  1353 Ave Luis Vigoreaux
  PMB 466
  Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00966-2715
  M +1 787 438 6110
  F +1 787 883 4032
  Skype: helaine.gregory
  hgregory@prtc.net | helainegregory@aol.com | helainegregory@gmail.com