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IP and Industry News

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Walker, the Texas Ranger, Attacks Pharma Successful Pharma and Biotech

Walker, the Texas Ranger, Attacks Pharmaⁱ

Walker thinks he knows better than the FDA and thinks, “during the past two decades, the pharmaceutical industry in particular has focused almost exclusively on an automated; high-tech approach to discovering drugs derived from synthetic compounds and has shunned traditional trial-and-error chemistry and natural compounds.” But, perflubron is not a natural product. What Norris the clueless and his followers don’t know is the basics of FDA approval process, drug development process and market economy.

Apparently, Walker’s interest in pharmaceuticals was triggered by Tatiana’s story. While still in her mother’s womb, Tatiana suffered collapsed lungs. Fortunately, doctors caught this at her birth and immediately put Tatiana on a machine which kept her heart and lungs functioning. Tatiana’s doctors received a waiver to use an unapproved drug, perflubron, which is an oxygen-rich liquid that fills and expands the lungs before evaporating, which gave them one last hope to save the patient’s life. The treatment worked and Tatiana eventually began breathing on her own. She was able to go home for Christmas. But, Walker doesn’t know that perflubron is a synthetic product and failed FDA approval process.

Successful Pharma and Biotechⁱⁱ

U.S. drug approvals in 2014 hit their highest level in 18 years and recommendations in Europe also came at a rapid rate, driven by expensive new treatments for cancer and rare diseases. After suffering a wave of patent losses on blockbuster products, which peaked two years ago, drugmakers are recovering their

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ability to bring new medicines to market and productivity is improving. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research approved 41 novel medicines in 2014, 14 more than a year earlier, according to its website. That tally is second only to the all-time high of 53 approvals reached in 1996. Nearly 40 percent of new drugs approved in the United States last year were for rare diseases, underscoring the industry's focus on specialized products where competition is limited and annual costs often exceed \$100,000 per patient. The European Medicines Agency, which includes generic drugs in its list, recommended 82 new medicines last year, up from 79 in 2013 and 57 in 2012.

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Om! Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya, Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih!
(Aum! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality, and peace!)

ⁱ Chuck Norris Attacks The Pharmaceutical Industry: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/johnlamattina/2015/01/05/chuck-norris-attacks-the-pharmaceutical-industry/?partner=yahootix>; Accessed on 31 January 2015.

ⁱⁱ Drug approvals hit 18-year high: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/01/us-pharmaceuticals-approvals-idUSKBN0KA1GC20150101>; Accessed on 31 January 2015.

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