PFIZER ONCOLOGY: NEARLY TWO DECADES OF TRANSFORMING CANCER CARE

Pfizer’s commitment to oncology began nearly two decades ago. Today, our extensive portfolio of cancer therapies continues to break boundaries in cancer care with comprehensive and cutting-edge treatment options that have one clear mission: addressing the diverse needs of people across the cancer care community.

Click on the timeline below to learn more about key Pfizer Oncology milestones. Learn more about Pfizer Oncology at http://www.pfizer.com/research/therapeutic_areas/oncology.
Parke-Davis started the project for a new breast cancer drug. Parke-Davis was acquired by Warner Lambert, which was later acquired by Pfizer in 2000. Synthesis of the drug occurred in 2001.  

Celltech entered into a collaboration with Wyeth for the research, development and commercialization of antibody cytotoxic conjugates as novel oncology treatments. This led to the discovery of new hematology drugs. Pfizer merged with Wyeth in 2009.

Pfizer acquired Warner-Davis/Parke-Lambert and its research into the development of a selective cyclin-dependent kinases 4 and 6 (CDK 4/6) inhibitor.

Pfizer finalized a deal to merge with Pharmacia Corporation, expanding Pfizer's product portfolio into oncology with medicines for colorectal, and breast cancers as well as the transfer of an investigational tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI).

Pfizer acquired Rinat Neuroscience Corp, which currently serves as Pfizer's primary immuno-oncology research facility due to its strength in biotherapeutics and expertise in immuno-biology.

The FDA approved Pfizer's treatment for advanced renal cell carcinoma and gastrointestinal stromal tumors under priority review, marking the first time the FDA approved a new oncology product for two indications simultaneously.

Pfizer grew its investments in oncology, dedicating almost $1 billion to the development of new cancer medicines.

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2007–2010

2007
Pfizer has 15 oncology compounds in clinical development, and conducted over 200 oncology studies.

2007
The FDA approved Pfizer’s second compound for the treatment of advanced renal cell carcinoma.

2007
Pfizer launched its Global Health Partnerships (GHP) program, a comprehensive approach to help tackle the global cancer epidemic, and committed to investing approximately $47 million over four years (2008-2011) in 32 promising cancer and tobacco control organizations in 46 countries.

2008
Pfizer announced the establishment of a new Business Unit focused solely on oncology in its Worldwide Pharmaceutical Group.

2008
FivePrime and Pfizer entered an oncology and diabetes collaboration.

2009
Pfizer completed the acquisition of Wyeth, which included the transfer of approved and investigational medicines in hematology.

2010
The European Commission approved Pfizer’s treatment for unresectable or metastatic, well-differentiated pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (NET) following disease progression in adults, representing the first treatment to be approved for patients with pancreatic NET in 25 years.


Pfizer collaborated with Cellectis to develop chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) immunotherapies.

Pfizer entered into an alliance with Merck KGaA to jointly develop and commercialize an investigational anti-PD-L1 IgG1 monoclonal antibody.

Pfizer's cyclin-dependent kinases 4 and 6 (CDK 4/6) inhibitor received Breakthrough Therapy designation by the FDA.

The FDA approved an additional Pfizer treatment for patients with previously treated advanced renal cell carcinoma.


The FDA approved Pfizer's treatment for patients with previously treated chronic myelogenous leukemia. This approval marked the third new Pfizer Oncology medicine to be approved by the FDA in a 13-month span.

2015

- The FDA granted Breakthrough Therapy designation for Pfizer's ALK inhibitor in a second rare form of non-small cell lung cancer.
- Pfizer and Merck KGaA's investigational compound is granted Breakthrough Therapy designation in metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma.
- Pfizer entered into a long-term agreement with Thermo Fisher Scientific to develop and commercialize a multi-marker, universal next-generation sequencing (NGS) oncology test that will serve as a companion diagnostic (CDx) for non-small cell lung cancer across multiple drug development programs.
- Pfizer and Merck KGaA's investigational compound is granted Breakthrough Therapy designation in metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma.
- Pfizer and Servier entered into a collaboration agreement to co-develop and commercialize an allogeneic chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) immunotherapy asset developed through Cellectis's TALEN® gene-editing technology.
- The FDA approved Pfizer's CDK 4/6 inhibitor, making it the first CDK 4/6 inhibitor to be approved in the U.S.
- Pfizer and Hospira entered into a definitive merger agreement under which Pfizer will acquire Hospira, the world's leading provider of injectable oncology drugs and infusion technologies and a global leader in biosimilars.
- Pfizer's investigational compound for acute lymphoblastic leukemia is granted Breakthrough Therapy designation.

2016

Pfizer completed the acquisition of Medivation, expanding Pfizer’s oncology product portfolio to include an approved product in prostate cancer and two investigational medicines.²⁶

The FDA approved Pfizer’s treatment for an additional indication in ROS1-positive advanced non-small cell lung cancer.²⁷

Pfizer joined the Cancer Moonshot initiative to accelerate cancer research.

The FDA approved Pfizer’s treatment for adults with newly diagnosed CD33-positive acute myeloid leukemia (AML), and adults and children two years and older with relapsed or refractory CD33-positive AML. This treatment is the first therapy with an indication that includes pediatric AML.

The FDA expanded the indication for Pfizer’s chronic myeloid leukemia treatment to include newly diagnosed patients, marking the third U.S. hematology approval for Pfizer in the span of five months. This indication was later approved by the European Commission in April 2018.

The FDA approved Pfizer’s treatment for adults with relapsed or refractory B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

The FDA approved a new indication expanding the use of Pfizer's treatment to include the adjuvant treatment of adult patients at high risk of recurrent renal cell carcinoma following nephrectomy (surgical removal of the cancerous kidney). This is the first FDA-approved adjuvant treatment for renal cell carcinoma.

The FDA granted Breakthrough Therapy designation to Pfizer and Merck KGaA's combination treatment in advanced renal cell carcinoma.

Pfizer and Allogene announced that the two companies have entered into an asset contribution agreement for Pfizer’s portfolio of assets related to allogeneic chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR T) therapy.\(^{37}\)

The FDA approved two biosimilars in three months with one being the first and only biosimilar erythropoiesis-stimulating agent to be approved in the U.S.\(^{38,39}\)

The FDA approved four treatments for advanced forms of cancer in two months, including two in metastatic non-small lung cancer, one in metastatic breast cancer, and one in acute myeloid leukemia.\(^{40, 41, 42, 43}\)

Pfizer adds biosimilars portfolio to the oncology business unit to bring the total number of approved medicines to 17.\(^{44}\)