

Momentum Is Building

Everywhere you look these days, momentum is building. Science is advancing at a rapid pace, the *Journal* is doing phenomenally well, and the biopharmaceutical industry had a record year of new approvals. Moreover, jobs seem to be more plentiful in both academia and industry, and the overall outlook for CNS discovery is more upbeat than it has been in years.

ACS *Chemical Neuroscience* posted an impact factor in 2013 of 4.2 (up from 3.6 in 2012),¹ and 2014 saw all new records across multiple metrics. According to Web of Science,² citations increased from 1226 in 2013 to 1759 in 2014 (over 40% increase) with an h-index of 24 and an average of 6.58 citations per manuscript. Concomitant with these increases, submissions have increased dramatically as well in the last quarter of 2014 (~50% increase), and this trend continues into 2015. From all of the editors and staff at ACS, we thank our authors for their submissions, and our editors and reviewers which, as of late, are all handling many more manuscripts than in years past.

The pharmaceutical industry is also experiencing a positive shift in momentum. Last year was the best year in 18 years for new drug approvals, with a staggering 41 (only topped by 53 in 1996), and a sign that drug development is alive and well.³ This number is even more impressive when we consider the new statistics that the cost to bring a drug to market is \$2.6 billion!⁴ Several of the new approvals were for CNS indications. These trends, coupled with a new report from IMS Health⁵ that forecasts global spending on medicines will increase 30% (\$1.3 trillion) by 2018, driven by innovative medicines (rare/neglected and personalized medicines), price increases, and few patent expirations, highlight the building momentum.

Most CNS therapeutics that represent standard of care (L-DOPA, clozapine, etc.) were developed 50 years ago—we can do better. The market for CNS drugs is robust—Abilify was the number one selling small molecule drug in 2013 (~\$8 billion).⁶ Patients and families are waiting—the unmet medical need in CNS drug discovery is clear. Collectively, we must seize this opportunity and not allow momentum to slow.

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AUTHOR INFORMATION

Notes

Views expressed in this editorial are those of the author and not necessarily the views of the ACS.

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