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From the Editor-in-Chief

While I could be deluding myself with wishful thinking, I may be seeing the “new normal” evolving for the biotech industry.

But first we'll have to get our terminology right and stop using non sequiturs such as “biopharmaceutical.” It's not only a tongue twister, but certainly we agree that “never the twain shall meet” when it comes to biologics and pharmaceuticals. So why do people keep mixing the two, and especially with all the big pharmaceutical companies scrambling to find their salvation in biologics?

Granted that therapeutic proteins are regulated by the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, however everyone knows that CDER has no business regulating biologics, and they should give these products back to CBER where they belong and used to reside.

But let's get back to the “new normal.” It very well may be that the mass closing of R&D facilities and the cancellation of major programs is freeing up the CSOs and other entrepreneurs who will start their own companies.

And just possibly, these people will feel so badly burned by corporate greed that they won't want to be acquired.

Then these innovative small companies can develop the next generation of products. And when the big companies try to buy them, they will be offered much better alternatives like licenses for marketing rights, licenses for manufacturing rights, and possibly a piece of the business bought with milestone payments as we saw in the early '90s.

Of course, the innovative, small companies will need help to finance early development, patent their work, and then defend their patents. Maybe this is where the universities should come in, along with the government?

But truthfully, I don't care how things evolve as long as the industry gets over its obsession with M&A's, and starts covering travel costs so its technical people can share information and give us a stronger industry.



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