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## **ANALYSIS OF INDUSTRY-SPONSORED CLINICAL TRIALS**

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**Authors:** FORSTER K. and TASSIGNON J.-P., Crossover CRI AG, Industriestrasse 7, CH-6300 Zug ([jean-pierre.tassignon@crossover-cri.com](mailto:jean-pierre.tassignon@crossover-cri.com); [www.crossover-cri.com](http://www.crossover-cri.com)).

**Abstract:** Since the 2008 peak in the number of new trials reported by industry sponsors to the NIH database [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov), we observe an annual decline in the number of new trials of about 10% in the World, and of about 15% in Western Europe. Certain countries like Belgium and particularly Bulgaria are worse off. Pediatric trials follow the same trend.

**Key words:** trial statistics, pediatric trials, industry-sponsored trials, 5-year trend, [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov).

**Introduction.** [Clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) [[www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)] is a database containing currently in excess of 105,000 clinical trials in 174 countries. This database is run by the National Institutes of Health in the USA since 1997. Since 2008, Crossover has monitored 5-year trends in industry-sponsored trials.

**Materials and methods.** We use the powerful search engine to research [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov), and analyze on a quarterly basis trends in the number of industry-sponsored clinical trials. We analyze in this issue 5-year trends in the number of clinical trials newly posted in the database. We do this for the World, for Western Europe and for two countries, Belgium and Bulgaria, where Crossover has partnerships with hospitals to run their clinical research. We also like to analyze, the pediatric subsets of each of these markets because one of our partner hospitals in Brussels is a large pediatric hospital. For each market, we count the number of industry-sponsored studies in each category. For 2011, we have only quarter 1 statistics. Therefore, we extrapolate to a full year (see bars with dotted line). Western Europe is defined as Austria, Belgium, the UK, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

**Results.** See graphs on the following page. The left column shows 5-year statistics for the World on top, then for Western Europe, for Belgium and Bulgaria in this order down the column. The right column shows statistics for pediatric trials sponsored by industry in the same vertical order. Bulgaria has almost no pediatric studies.

Since the peaks of 2008, the number of clinical trials sponsored by industry regresses by 8-10% per year in the World, by an average of 15% per year in Western Europe, by an average of 17% per year in Belgium, and by an average of 30% in Bulgaria. The same trends can be observed regarding pediatric trials.

**Comments.** The steadily diminishing participation of Western European sites in industry-sponsored clinical trials seems unstoppable. It is surprising that despite the Pediatric Investigation Plans in the European Union, the same trend is observed in Western Europe's participation in pediatric trials.

**Conclusions.** Since 2008, the number of clinical trials newly reported to [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov) regresses each year in the World, and 2011 is no exception. Western Europe is even more affected by this trend. The competitiveness of Belgium deteriorates somewhat faster than Western Europe, and Bulgaria's share in the market is dwindling very fast. Pediatric trials are no exception to the general trend.

**Results**

