



## Webinar

# Non-commercial pharmaceutical R&D: What do PDPs suggest about costs and efficiency?

Marcela Vieira

25 March 2021

### Q&A Session with the Participants

**16:11:16**

From Global Health Centre Research, Graduate Institute Geneva: The research paper being presented today is available at:

- Journal article: <https://f1000research.com/articles/10-190/v1>
- Full research report: <https://repository.graduateinstitute.ch/record/298834>

**16:12:42**

From Reinhard Huss: Is it appropriate to separate between private (individual control) and social (collective control) profit rather than talk about non-commercial?

**16:22:08**

From Lindsay McKenna: Thanks very much and congrats on this really interesting work, Marcela! We know well that all PDPs / non-commercial research organizations are not created equal :) Wondering if any examination of differences in costs etc. between non-commercial partners? And whether non-commercial organization origination story and/or previous experience of leadership (i.e., if EDs/ CEOs come from commercial vs. non-profit background) affect research and/or overhead costs?

**16:22:31**

From Reinhard Huss: Is it useful to analyse and consider cost categories which are considered in commercial and non-commercial R&D? e.g. Commercial R&D may include opportunity costs of capital investment.

**16:24:08**

From Mike Frick: Great work Marcela. Can you say more on the finding from qualitative data that involving affected community pushes costs higher? Were costs cited related to funding CABs, or to effect of community involvement on study timelines, or something else?

**16:25:57**

From Alex Kong: Could you comment on the somewhat low participation rate of the organizations initially contacted (e.g., what reasons they gave if not non-response)?

How might this be overcome for further analyses? Could funders be one route to increase transparency from the organizations which they fund?

**16:26:48**

From Reinhard Huss: Can the timeframe be shorter with a collaborative approach of organisations and research groups? e.g. example of COVID-19 vaccine research.

16:28:36 From Giustino Adesso to Panelists : Obrigado Marcela. Why didnt include vaccines?

**16:29:50**

From Alexandra Fullem: Thank you for this, can you tell us more about the further paper on PDPs you have planned?

**16:30:48**

From Carolyn Sunners: Is the resulting hypothesis what you expected? Or did you expect non-commercial to be lower cost?

**16:33:11**

From Alexandra Fullem: PDPs are getting huge numbers of requests for this type of feedback, I know of three other efforts currently ongoing, so short time frames really will have an impact on the data you get

**16:33:56**

From David Deakin: Re - Reinhard comment - My experience in big pharma is that basically time is a function of commercial prioritisation and therefore the resources/costs that are applied to individual development programmes - very fast development can occur when the priority and resource level is high enough - as Covid vaccine demonstrates!

**16:35:55**

From Aidan Hollis: Super useful paper! Congrats. I am puzzled by the claim in the paper that the cost of capital is lower for non-profits. This doesn't make sense to me unless one thinks that non-profits don't care about when services are delivered.

**16:40:34**

From Philippe Carteron de Balmont: A lot of patient groups are supported by pharma and would not exist without their support

**16:41:18**

From Derek Ambrosino: Given the wide potential variation of between trial sizes, locations, etc., was there any attempt to compare commercial and non-commercial programs that are more similar in these attributes as opposed overall averages across all trials?

**16:41:22**

From Silvia Ferazzi: Will put the comment/question on the chat. Thank you for this research effort. Comments:

- 1) The study and this webinar does not emphasize sufficiently that without non-commercial pharmaceutical R&D there would be virtually no investment in

research on poverty-related and neglected tropical diseases as it is not an area of commercial interest.

- 2) The study looks at non-commercial vs. commercial costs and indicates that they are largely equivalent, but this opposition is somewhat artificial as PDPs are there to partner with universities and pharma partners, and the added value of these partnerships is to de-risk the research and product development process and to share costs, which means that even if the total costs are comparable, they are significantly lower for the various partners involved as a result of cost-sharing.

**16:41:50**

From Pauline Londeix: Thank you very much and congrats for the very interesting research and presentation

**16:44:37**

From Philippe Carteron de Balmont: I miss the beginning of the conference but to me we could just compare orphan drugs dev (commercial) to neglected diseases drug dev and commercial makes the whole difference.

**16:51:32**

From Philippe Carteron de Balmont: I fully agree that incentives have made pharmas to get involved in OD development

**16:51:44**

From ELOAN PINHEIRO: Congratulation Marcela for your presentation, however I would like to read the paper, because I have doubts related the participation of the cost from the partners public and private?

**16:52:52**

From Philippe Carteron de Balmont: Thank you Marcela

**16:52:55**

From michelle childs: @ Aidan to compliment Marcela's response one aspect from DNDI experience of costs of capital is the fact that DNDI is funded up front by public sources rather than commercial costs of borrowing capital, so those aspects of costs of capital do not apply. In contrast in one of the industry models referred to - Tufts- the 'opportunity cost' of capital invested along the development cycle is a key cost component accounting for more than half of total costs. If useful more detail on DNDI's publically available specific costs can be found here <https://dndi.org/advocacy/transparency-rd-costs/>

**16:58:39**

From Manuel Martin: This was excellent! Many thanks to Marcela, Suerie, and Ryan for all the hard work in putting this together.

**16:59:29**

From Rosana Gaertner: Contrasts!!

**16:59:37**

From Vitor Ido: thank you very much, excellent presentation and very engaging paper.

**16:59:52**

From Allison Neapole: Thanks Suerie, Marcela, Ryan - very interesting paper and discussion.

**17:00:07**

From Sébastien Morin: Very interesting! Thanks both.

**17:00:07**

From Reinhard Huss: Thank you for the presentation and discussion about this excellent and interesting research.

**17:00:10**

From Alex Kong: Thank you!

**17:00:18**

From Olena Wagner to Panelists : thank you, impressive!

**17:00:21**

From sergio rossi: Tks'

**17:00:38**

From Amaka Vanni: Thank you!

**17:00:39**

From Global Health Centre Research, Graduate Institute Geneva: Thank you for joining our webinar today. After the webinar, you will be directed to a survey page. We kindly ask you to take a few minutes to answer the questions in order to help us improve the quality of webinar.

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