

Defending the Dream:  
The Other Risks to Drug Development

Laura Sunderlin

Annual Conference on Rare Disease  
and Orphan Drugs  
October 26-27 20116

## Evolving Negative Views of Clinical Trials



- a. Money over safety
- b. Drugs not effective
- c. Not concerned about individuals



### **“Trial and Terror**

It was the stuff of nightmares. Six men volunteered for a clinical trial to test a new drug and within minutes were fighting for their lives.... the race to develop life-saving medicines ... and the grave risks that can be involved”

Guardian 3/19/2006

## The Social Media Matrix



## And Continuing Issues



Annual Conference on Rare  
Disease  
and Orphan Drugs  
October 26-27 2016

# The Importance of a Well-Crafted Informed Consent

Participation is voluntary.

Special considerations with children.

This is an experimental drug.

There may be side effects; some of which are unknown.

Including death...

Or life under circumstances you may find  
unacceptable.

This may not cure or even help you.

# The Power Patient Outreach

Example: BioMarin, *RareConnections*<sup>™</sup>

<http://www.biomin.com/patients/biomin-rareconnections>

Example: Alexion, *Uncommon Strength*.

<http://www.uncommonstrength.com>

# Sarepta: an Example of the Power of Affinity Groups

"Patients and their advocates were uniquely positioned to give valuable input to drug developers and the FDA and that their voice should not — and would not — be ignored at the agency. "I can assure you that the commitment to patient involvement in the system of product development and evaluation is deep and fundamental across the [FDA]," Dr. Robert M. Califf, M.D. FDA commissioner." (medscape medical news): 10/19/2016

# Risk Management, Insurance, Crowd Control

Risk Management in Clinical Trials

Insurance against lawsuits

Pro-active management of social media and public perception.

Annual Conference on Rare  
Disease  
and Orphan Drugs  
October 26-27 20116



## Further Reading..

- Shamo, Adil , Woekner, Elizabeth (2007) Ethical Flaws in the TeGenero Trial, The American Journal of Bioethics.
- Editorial (2014) Rarified drug Pricing, Nature Biotechnology.
- Elizabeth Hernberg-Ståhl, Miroslav Reljanović, Orphan Drugs: Understanding the Rare Disease Market and its Dynamics, Woodhead Publishing, Elsevier.
- Makary, Martin, MD. Et. Al (2015)“ Orphan Drug Loopholes Need Closing ” American Journal of Clinical Oncology
- Gulfo, Joseph, (2015) “Corrupting the Common Cure” US News and World Report.
- Chin, William W. (2015) “A Delicate Balance -- Pharmaceutical Innovation and Access” New England Journal of Medicine;
- O’Sullivan, B.P. , et. Al.(2013) Pricing for Orphan Drugs: Will the Market Bear what Society Cannot?” JAMA
- Sunderlin, Laura (2007) “Informed Consent as Risk Management”, The Golden State BioBusiness News.