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1 MEETING

2 MS. RAY: Good morning. We'll go ahead and

3 get started. Welcome to the U.S. Food and Drug

4 Administration's public meeting on the reauthorization

5 of the Biosimilar User Fee Act referred to as BsUFA.

6 My name is Tasha Ray. I work in the office of Program

7 and Strategic Analysis in FDA's Center for Drug

8 Evaluation and Research, or CDER. I will serve as

9 today's moderator. BsUFA is the legislation that

10 authorizes FDA to collect user fees to support the

11 process for the review of biosimilar biological

12 products. The current authorization of the program,

13 BsUFA II, expires in September 2022. Activities are

14 therefore under way to reauthorize the program for

15 fiscal years 2023 through 2027. Today's meeting is an

16 important step in engaging with public stakeholders on

17 the BsUFA program.

The purpose of today's meeting as outlined in

19 the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act is to gather

20 input from the public on the proposed recommendations

21 for the reauthorization of BsUFA. The full text of

22 the proposed BsUFA III commitment letter can be found

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1 on the Agency's webpage. We have also opened a public

2 docket for those who wish to submit written comments.

3 After the public meeting and the close of the

4 public docket, we will revise the recommendations as

5 appropriate and present our proposed recommendations

6 to congressional committees. We will cover several

7 topics in our meeting today.

8 We will begin with Dr. Patrizia Cavazzoni,

9 Center Director of CDER, who will provide opening

10 remarks. Andrew Kish, Director of CDER's Office of

11 Program and Strategic Analysis, will follow with the

12 background on BsUFA and the reauthorization process.

13 We will then have a series of presentations from FDA

14 covering a proposed BsUFA enhancement.

Following these presentations, we'll take a

16 20-minute break. And then we'll continue the meeting

17 with remarks from industry association representatives

18 who participated in the negotiation process. Finally,

19 there will be a public comment session for those

20 members of the public who submitted an online request

21 to provide comments.

As we do have a full agenda, we ask that

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1 speakers please adhere to the list and timeframes in

2 the agenda. I'll also let you know if you're running

3 over. Given our virtual format, this meeting will not

4 include questions from FDA to any of the speakers nor

5 will FDA be able to take any questions during the

6 meeting. Although you cannot see us in person, please

7 know that my colleagues who are leading and

8 participating in the reauthorization process are

9 listening, and we very much value your important

10 perspective.

Today's meeting is not the only chance to

12 gather public input. The public docket mentioned

13 previously is open until December 2nd, and we

14 encourage the public to submit comments. We will

15 periodically be sending out the docket link throughout

16 today's meeting. A recording and transcript of this

17 meeting will also be made available online.

18 A few last housekeeping items. If you

19 experience technical issues during the webcast, please

20 contact us through the Q&A box at the bottom of the

21 screen, and we'll do our best to assist you. You can

22 also email us at emily.ewing@fda.hhs.gov. We'll have

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1 a 20-minute break around 10:00 a.m. If schedule

2 modifications are needed, we'll send a notification in

3 the top. With that, we look forward to beginning this

4 important conversation. I'll now turn it over to Dr.

5 Cavazzoni for your opening remarks.

6 DR. CAVAZZONI: Good morning. I want to

7 welcome everyone to today's public meeting to discuss

8 the proposed enhancements to the BsUFA program.

9 Providing a transparency in opportunity for public

10 engagement are a vital piece of the BsUFA process.

11 Last November, we requested public input on priorities

12 for BsUFA negotiations. And over the course of

13 negotiations, we posted meeting in its, to FDA's

14 websites (indiscernible) the BsUFA discussions.

Today, we will present the proposed

16 enhancements to you. We look forward to your feedback

17 and consideration in this step of the reauthorization.

18 The public meeting is one of the final steps in the

19 reauthorization process. The proposed enhancements

20 for the third authorization of BsUFA provide funding

21 for continued maturation of, of the biosimilar repeat

22 program. This funding will help the Agency address

- 1 current and future needs. The BsUFA III agreement
- 2 provides support for the establishment of new
- 3 supplement categories, timelines, and performance
- 4 goals along with other enhancements through the review
- 5 process.
- 6 Additionally, the agreement includes a
- 7 focused effort to support the development of
- 8 interchangeable products. This effort includes
- 9 stakeholder input on key priorities for
- 10 interchangeable development. BsUFA III also, also
- 11 introduces a new BsUFA regulatory science pilot
- 12 program. The pilot program will support research to
- 13 advance the development of interchangeable products
- 14 and improve the efficiency of biosimilar product
- 15 development. Public input will also be critical to
- 16 reviewing project progress and identify, identifying
- 17 future regulatory science research that are needed for
- 18 biosimilars. Importantly, the agreement provides
- 19 continued sound financial footing for the biosimilar
- 20 program. BsUFA III will build on the financial
- 21 enhancements introduced in BsUFA II including maturing
- 22 the capacity planning function, which is critical to

Page

- 1 background on the BsUFA program, where we were, are at
- 2 in the reauthorization process and a quick overview of
- 3 the proposed enhancements.
- 4 DR. KISH: Okay. Thank you. Good morning,
- 5 everyone, and thank you for joining the meeting. All
- 6 right. So I'll -- I'm going to give a brief
- 7 background on biosimilars, particularly the, the UFAs,
- 8 and then also, also a brief overview of the
- 9 reauthorization process and where we are today. We
- 10 can go to the next slide.
- 11 So a little bit on just the user fee
- 12 construct for those who have joined the, the meeting
- 13 back in November or any of the other UFA meetings.
- 14 This probably looks familiar but just as as reminder.
- 15 So what, what are user fees? So Congress instructs
- 16 FDA to establish a user fee program for the process of
- 17 the review of the biosimilar biological product
- 18 applications, and fee funds are added to new, to non-
- 19 fee appropriated funds. They are intended to increase
- 20 the staffing resources, the speed, and enhance the
- 21 review process. A key distinction with user fees is
- 22 that they pay for services that directly benefit the

Page 11

- 1 ensuring FDA has the ability to keep pace with
- 2 sustained increases in workload.
- 3 I am pleased that even as our centers
- 4 continue to work hard on our COVID-19 response, our
- 5 staff have been able to come to an agreement that
- 6 addresses some current critical needs while looking
- 7 towards the future. Of course, the success of BsUFA
- 8 is not the result of FDA's work alone. Your
- 9 participation is a crucial element. So, please, don't
- 10 forget to provide comments and feedback to the public
- 11 docket after this meeting. We look forward to
- 12 continuing to work closely with you and to support you
- 13 as we fulfill our mission to deliver on the promise of
- 14 science with data-driven results and rigorous
- 15 scientific analysis to protect the health of the
- 16 American public.
- 17 Thank you again for attending today's virtual
- 18 meeting and special thanks to all of the speakers on
- 19 today's program. We look forward to a productive
- 20 meeting.
- MS. RAY: Thank you very much, Dr. Cavazzoni.
- 22 I would now like to invite Andrew Kish to provide

Page 13 1 payers. This is what distinguishes it from a tax.

- 1.3
- 2 So what do we discuss in these technical
- 3 negotiations? They are around desired enhancements of
- 4 the specific activities related to the process, the
- 5 review process. So that can include what new or
- 6 enhanced process the FDA or industry will seek during
- 7 this five, five-year timeframe. We discuss what is
- 8 technically feasible to do and what are the resources
- 9 required to implement and sustain those enhancements.
- 10 The important distinction is that we do not discuss
- 11 policy content. You may see in the agreement that
- 12 there is agreement around issuing guidances. However,
- 13 there is no discussion in these technical negotiations
- 14 what the FDA's position will be in those guidances.
- 15 Discussions also include mechanics of the user fee
- 16 program. So into the nut and bolt of how fees are
- 17 collected, the types and products are covered by each
- 18 fee, and as you're probably aware, everyone in the, in
- 19 the audience, the medical product industry programs
- 20 must be reauthorized every five years. Going to the
- 21 next slide.
- 22 BsUFA is still a relatively new program --

- 1 not our, not our newest, but close to it. It came
- 2 about in the BPCIA Act of 2009 where FDA was directed
- 3 to develop recommendations for a user fee program.
- 4 Something that's interesting at that point in time --
- 5 I know I mentioned this in the, the kick-off meeting
- 6 back in November -- is there -- at that time when we
- 7 had the conflict BsUFA for a specific user fee
- 8 agreement, there were no market applications for
- 9 products on the market.
- There wasn't an established drug development
- 11 process where history related to biosimilar biological
- 12 products in the U.S. at that time. So after
- 13 consultation with regulated industry and public
- 14 stakeholders, FDA did come up with a BsUFA I
- 15 arrangement in agreement as transmitted to Congress,
- 16 and it was passed (indiscernible). But BsUFA is at
- 17 its 9th year and as a point of comparison, BsUFA is is
- 18 at it's 28th. BsUFA, since it's creation, has
- 19 facilitated the approval of 31 biosimilar biological
- 20 products for the American public.
- 21 Really brief overview of BsUFA I and BsUFA II
- 22 and the key highlights of what was in those

Page 15

- 1 agreements, BsUFA I, as previously mentioned, really
- 2 was just creating a user fee program really when there
- 3 wasn't much experience, or really any experience with
- 4 the process. So at that point in time, industry and
- 5 FDA and other stakeholders agreed let's, let's go
- 6 forward with referencing PDUFA fee amounts at, at the
- 7 start of BsUFA.
- 8 So we -- we referenced the fee amounts and
- 9 the fee types and added a new fee type for products in
- 10 the development phase in order to generate revenue,11 support FDA's review work during the, the development
- 11 support 1 D713 leview work during the, the developmen
- 12 IND stage and to, to enable sponsors to have meetings
- 13 with FDA early in development. BsUFA I also
- 14 introduced predictable timelines and review process
- 15 performance goals. Again, primarily modeled on the
- 16 BsUFA construct.
- 17 So as we transition to BsUFA II, we had
- 18 several years of experience with, with the, the new
- 19 pathway at that time when we were discussing BsUFA II.
- 20 We also had some insight into program costs now that
- 21 the program was off the ground. So BsUFA II, we were
- 22 able to establish an independent efficient user fee

- 1 structure based on program costs. So we no longer
- 2 reference PDUFA. We also implemented the review
- 3 program to promote the efficiency and effectiveness
- 4 for the first cycle review of biosimilar applications
- 5 and submit the minimized number of recycles necessary
- 6 for each biosimilar approval. It also added
- 7 commitments to assess the program and clarify the
- 8 regulatory pathway that hits that capacity. Moving to
- 9 the next slide.
- 10 So where are we today? I -- as Tasha and
- 11 Patrizia already mentioned, this is a critical step in
- 12 the reauthorization process. This is language from,
- 13 from the statute. You might be familiar with it. So
- 14 we go through a, a full process and around
- 15 consultation. And then we move into the second step
- 16 there, which is public review of recommendations. And
- 17 the highlighted section is where we are today, and
- 18 that's publishing the recommendations to Federal
- 19 Register providing the public 30 days, at least 30
- 20 days to provide written comments to that docket and to
- 21 hold this meeting today to get your feedback. After
- 22 this meeting, the next step is then to review all the

- 1 feedback that we receive through the public docket
- 2 making the assessments if anything in the package
- 3 needs to change and then transmit the recommendations
- 4 to Congress no later than January 15th next year.
- 5 On the next slide is the, a graphical and
- 6 review if you're not a fan of reading statute, like
- 7 myself. A sense of a timeline for the BsUFA III
- 8 reauthorization. If we start with the public
- 9 announcement, a class in October of last year, we held
- 10 negotiations with industry from March to July. We
- 11 were going through a clearance process through the
- 12 administration, and we are at the public meeting
- 13 today.
- 14 And as -- as mentioned previously, we
- 15 transmit the package to Congress no later than January
- 16 15th. And then it is with Congress to reauthorize
- 17 BsUFA III. And the current specific agreements, sun
- 18 sets on September 30th, 2022. And just a little bit
- 19 on the BsUFA III agreement overview of my colleagues
- 20 from FDA will do a deeper dive on each section. Go to
- 21 the next slide.
- This is around 10 enhancement areas that

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- 1 we're going to highlight today that are new changes
- 2 going into BsUFA III. One is around supplements, a
- 3 meeting management, best practices in application
- 4 review, URRA human factors' timelines, sections as Dr.
- 5 Cavazzoni mentioned, interchangeable products and
- 6 regulatory science, expense and finance, hiring
- 7 retention, and information technology.
- 8 So I would now like to turn it over to my
- ·
- 9 colleague, Sarah Yim, who is the Director of the
- 10 Office of Therapeutic Biologics and Biosimilars, who
- 11 is going to give you more information on some of these
- 12 enhancements.
- 13 DR. YIM: Thanks, Andy. Next slide, please.
- 14 So I'm going to summarize for you the proposed BsUFA
- 15 III enhancements for the first four areas that Andy
- 16 mentioned. Starting with supplements, the changes
- 17 introduce new supplement categories and timelines to
- 18 expedite the review of supplements. This includes
- 19 faster review timelines for safety labeling updates
- 20 and labeling updates to add or remove an indication
- 21 where FDA does not need to review efficacy data. Also
- 22 depending on the content of this submission, the new

- 1 within 4 months of receipt of the supplement.
- 2 Category D Supplements are those seeking licensure for
- 3 an additional indication when the submission contains
- 4 new datasets, except for the types of datasets
- 5 described in Category E and F Supplements also if the
- 6 supplement does not contain an up-to-date agreed upon
- 7 IPS fee. This category has an action goal date of
- 8 within 6 months of receipt of the supplement.
- 9 Category E and F Supplements both have an action goal
- 10 date of within 10 months of receipt. Category E
- 11 supplements are those seeking licensure for an
- 12 additional indication where the supplement contains
- 13 efficacy datasets. And Category F Supplements are
- 14 those seeking an initial determination of
- 15 interchangeability. Next slide, please.
- 16 So this slide summarizes the performance
- 17 goals for a regional applications and supplements.
- 18 There is no change to the timelines or goals for
- 19 original biosimilar biological product applications or
- 20 resubmitted original applications. Although not noted
- 21 on this slide, there is also no change to the
- 22 timelines for manufacturing supplements. For A

- 1 timelines are 3 months, 4 months, 6 months, or 10
- 2 months from the supplement receipt date. Next slide,
- 3 please.
- 4 Category A Supplements are supplements
- 5 seeking to update the labeling with regards to safety
- 6 information that has been updated in the referenced
- 7 product labeling. This category has an action goal
- 8 date of within three months of receipt of the
- 9 supplement. Category B Supplements are supplements
- 10 seeking licensure for an additional indication, when
- 11 the submission does not include new datasets with the
- 12 exceptions listed in the parentheses here, and the
- 13 supplement also does not seek a new route of
- 14 administration, dosage form, dosage strength,
- 15 formulation or presentation, and the supplement has an
- 16 up, up-to-date agreed upon initial pediatric study
- 17 plan. This category has an action goal date of within
- 18 4 months of receipt of the supplement. Next slide,
- 19 please.
- 20 Category C Supplements are supplements
- 21 seeking to remove an approved indication. This
- 22 category also has an action date, action goal date of

- Page 21
- 1 through D Category Supplements, the performance goals 2 start at 70 percent in 2023, go to 80 percent in 2024,
- 3 and then 90 percent for years 2025 through 2027. For
- 4 Category E and F Supplements, the performance goals
- 5 are 90 percent within 10 months of receipt for
- 6 original supplements and 90 percent within 6 months of
- 7 receipt for resubmitted supplements. Next slide,
- 8 please.
- 9 Moving on to meeting management enhancements,
- 10 the enhancements include modifying the operation,
- 11 operationalization of BIA meetings so that preliminary
- 12 comparative analytical data is no longer expected in
- 13 order to meet with FDA. The biggest change is the
- 14 introduction of a new biosimilar product development
- 15 meeting type called Type 2a. This meeting is intended
- 16 to focus on a narrow set of issues requiring input
- 17 from no more than three disciplines or review
- 18 divisions. In order to facilitate a reduced meeting
- 19 scheduling or written response time down to 60
- 20 calendar days. This is compared to the historical
- 21 Type 2 meetings under BsUFA II, which are now called
- 22 Type 2b meetings and still have a meeting scheduling

- 1 or a response time of 90 calendar days. BPD Type 4
- 2 meeting requests have been modified to allow for the
- 3 background package to be submitted up to 14 days after
- 4 FDA receipt of the meeting requests instead of the BPD
- 5 standard expectation of having the background package
- 6 submitted with the meeting request. Finally,
- 7 consistent with PDUFA VII, there will be a new follow-
- 8 up opportunity for sponsors to submit clarifying
- 9 questions after meetings or written response only
- 10 responses. And, of course, we're going to be updating
- 11 meetings, guidances, maps, and SOPs accordingly. Next
- 12 slide, please.
- 13 Building on the lessons learned during BsUFA
- 14 II, FDA will update relevant guidances, maps, and SOPs
- 15 to reflect best practices in communication during
- 16 application review. Next slide, please.
- 17 And, finally, consistent with PDUFA VII,
- 18 there will be final performance goals for the review
- 19 of use-related risk analyses and human factor study
- 20 protocols. FDA will also provide guidance on
- 21 considerations related to combination products.
- Now, I'll turn the podium over to Dr. Laurie

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- 1 Graham to discuss the next set of enhancements. Thank
- 2 you.
- 3 DR. GRAHAM: Thanks, Sarah. So I'm going to
- 4 start today by talking about a couple of commitments
- 5 around facilities. So can we go to the next slide,
- 6 please?
- 7 Okay. So these, these commitments around
- 8 facilities are also part of PDUFA VII. So the first
- 9 commitment has to do with communications around pre-
- 10 license inspections. So consistent with current
- 11 practice, FDA notifies sponsors of pre-license
- 12 inspections when we need to, for example, see the drug
- 13 substance or drug product that is the subject of the
- 14 BLA in manufacturing during the inspection. However,
- 15 we want to ensure predictability, predictability
- 16 around these notifications. So our commitment there
- 17 is shown in this first bullet that we will notify
- 18 sponsors at least 60 days in advance and no later than
- 19 the midcycle of a pre-license inspection for
- 20 applications not including supplements where FDA needs
- 21 to see the product being manufactured. And, of
- 22 course, we reserve the right to conduct inspections at

1 any time during the review cycle regardless of whether

- , , , , ,
- 2 or not we have communicated the intent to inspect to
- 3 the sponsor.
- 4 The next statement I want to talk about with
- 5 regards to facilities is about the use of alternative
- 6 tools. So during the COVID-19 public health emergency
- 7 where FDA has been limited in the inspections that we
- 8 can conduct due to travel restrictions, we have really
- 9 enhanced our use of alternative tools to evaluate
- 10 facilities. So we recognize there is a lot of
- 11 interest in how FDA will continue to use these
- 12 alternative tools once travel restrictions are lifted.
- 13 Our intention then is to look at how we have used
- 14 these tools during the pandemic, what's worked, what
- 15 hasn't worked, what changes do we have to make, and
- 16 then to sort of determine how best to use these tools
- 17 moving forward after the public health emergency.
- So our commitment there shown in the second
- 19 bullet is to, to commit to a guidance that will talk
- 20 about our thinking on the use of alternative tools to
- 21 assess manufacturing facilities named in pending
- 22 applications beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. So when

- 1 I'm talking about alternative tools, I'm talking about
- 2 things like requesting existing inspection reports
- 3 from sort of trusted regulatory partners through
- 4 mutual recognition agreements or confidentiality
- 5 agreements, requesting information from applicants,
- 6 requesting records and other information directly from
- 7 facilities and other inspected entities and, as
- 8 appropriate, utilizing new or existing technology
- 9 platforms to assess manufacturing facilities. Next
- 10 slide, please.
- So now I want to switch gears, and I want to
- 12 talk about that focused area in BsUFA III about
- 13 interchangeable products. So as you've already heard
- 14 there is a focused effort to further advance the
- 15 development of safe and effective interchangeable
- 16 biosimilar biological products, and this focused
- 17 effort is multi-pronged.
- 18 So the first part of it is the research
- 19 component, which is really about leveraging the
- 20 regulatory science program that my colleague in OPQ,
- 21 Steve Kozlowski, is going to be talking about in a
- 22 couple of minutes. Our intent is to leverage the

- 1 regulatory science program to advance product
- 2 development, assist in a regulatory decision making,
- 3 and support guidance development.
- 4 The next prong in our focused effort is
- 5 stakeholder engagement. So we really do want to have
- 6 a dialogue with industry. We want to talk about sort
- 7 of challenges and, and how we can further develop
- 8 interchangeable products. So we have committed to
- 9 holding a scientific workshop on the development of
- 10 interchangeable biosimilar biological products to help
- 11 sort of identify future needs. This can include
- 12 future guidance needs, future research needs. But we
- 13 intend to have this workshop on or before October
- 14 31st, 2025.
- Within 12 months following the public
- 16 workshop, we intend to draft a strategy document for
- 17 public comment. This strategy document will outline
- 18 the actions the Agency will take to facilitate the
- 19 development of interchangeable biosimilar biological
- 20 products. The strategy document can identify sort of
- 21 activities and deliverables including updating or
- 22 creating new guidances, maps, SOPPs, guidances, and

- 1 to support post-approval manufacturing changes to
- 2 support biosimilar and interchangeable biosimilar
- .....
- 3 biological products. And I want to point out that in
- 4 addition to sort of committing to certain dates by --5 by which we have the draft guidances up, we have also
- 6 committed that within 18 months after the close of the
- 7 public comment period on the draft guidance, we will
- 8 either publish a revised draft or a final guidance.
- 9 And now I'm going to turn it over to my
- 10 colleague in OPQ, Steve Kozlowski.
- 11 DR. KOZLOWSKI: Thank you. So I'm going to
- 12 talk about the regulatory science program, if we could
- 13 advance the slide.
- 14 So in demonstrating biosimilarity, a
- 15 manufacturer generates an area of data that compares
- 16 the proposed product to the approved reference
- 17 product. Similarly, in interchangeability, which we
- 18 have heard again about the, the focused effort to
- 19 enhance those, there are data and information that are
- 20 needed to support that, some of which are currently
- 21 included in guidance.
- In both of these areas, there are potential

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- 1 other changes to FDA programs. The strategy document
- 2 will also include proposed timeframes for the specific
- 3 actions outlined in the document. Our intent then is
- 4 within 9 months of the closing of the comment period,
- 5 we will publish a final strategy document. Next
- 6 slide, please.
- 7 And the next and final piece of our multi-
- 8 pronged focused effort is on guidance. We have
- 9 committed to producing four foundational guidance
- 10 documents. The first has to do with describing
- 11 considerations for developing presentations, container
- 12 closure systems, and device constituent parts for
- 13 proposed interchangeable biosimilar biological
- 14 products. The second guidance is a guidance on
- 15 labeling for interchangeable biosimilar biological
- 16 products. The third guidance is on promotional
- 17 labeling and advertising considerations for
- 18 interchangeable biosimilar biological products.
- 19 And, finally, the fourth guidance is a CMC
- 20 guidance on post-approval changes. And this guidance
- 21 will describe the nature and type of information for
- 22 different recorded categories of sponsorship provided

- 1 opportunities to better leverage data and information.
- 2 Both provide a similarity and interchangeability. FDA
- 3 is committed to enhancing regulatory decision making
- 4 and in facilitating the best science-based
- 5 recommendation in these areas, which are foundational
- 6 to bias in work development. In doing this, we are
- 7 piloting two demonstration products.
- 8 The first is advancing the development of
- 9 interchangeable products, which, again, ties to the
- 10 focused effort on interchangeable products. And that
- 11 will involve evaluating the data and information,
- 12 specifically calling out real world evidence, needed
- 13 to meet the standards in determining
- 14 interchangeability. That effort can include looking
- 15 at differences in presentations and container closure
- 16 systems on, and how the impact of those changes would
- 17 be evaluated and also methodologies to predict
- 18 immunogenicity, which can also really facilitate
- 19 development of these products. The second effort is
- 20 in improving the overall efficiency of biosimilar
- 21 product development. And that will involve
- 22 considering latest scientific knowledge in advances

- 1 and our collective experience with biosimilars, which
- 2 is a large dataset now. And so specifics in that will
- 3 be streamlining through considering advance
- 4 technologies in both analytical and pharmacological
- 5 assessment. And similar to demonstration products on
- 6 interchangeability, predicting immunogenicity is a key
- 7 factor in enabling development, and that will be
- 8 evaluated in the context of both of these
- 9 demonstration products. If we could move to the next
- 10 slide.
- 11 So how will these be communicated on the
- 12 outcome of these two regulatory demonstration
- 13 products? So in terms of interaction with
- 14 stakeholders, there will be a midpoint public meeting
- 15 to look at the progress of these projects and to
- 16 solicit input on future priorities. Preceding that
- 17 engagement will be an interim report on where the
- 18 projects are on. And there will also be a final
- 19 summary report on the outcomes of the research project
- 20 within the pilot.
- 21 Now there will be a distinct strategy
- 22 document separate from the report on the research

- 1 the financial enhancements, building on the financial
- 2 enhancements in BsUFA II to advance the sustainability
- 3 of the program resources and to further enhance the
- 5 of the program resources and to further emilinee th
- 4 operational agility of the program. Topics in the
- 5 financial area include resource capacity planning,
- 6 enhancing financial transparency, and updates to the
- 7 fee setting process.
- 8 So starting first with capacity planning,
- 9 resource capacity planning is a capability designed to
- 10 use data and analysis to help reform resource needs.
- 11 BsUFA II included commitments to establish the RCT, or
- 12 resource capacity planning, or RCT capability to
- 13 modernize our time recording approach and to establish
- 14 a new methodology to address review workload needs
- 15 called the capacity planning adjustment. BsUFA III
- 16 negotiated commitments are largely focused on17 continuing to ensure the RCT capability. As we
- 18 collect more data on resource needs and refine
- 19 methodologies for forecast and review workload, the
- 20 RCT capacity will continue, continually mature. In
- 21 addition, we will be working to further integrate RCT
- 22 analytics in the Agency's resource and operational

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- 1 pilot outcome that will really take what we have
- 2 learned from the program and use it in developing a
- 3 comprehensive strategy document. That will be a year
- 4 after the projects are completed. And that project
- 5 will include potentially updated maps, guidances, or
- 6 other steps to leverage the information that we have
- 7 gained and also timeframes for these actions. Thank
- 8 you. We can move to the next.
- 9 So Joshua Barton is now going to talk about
- 10 some of the financial parts of this resource capacity
- 11 planning. So thank you.
- DR. BARTON: Okay. Good morning. Thank you,
- 13 Steve. My name is Josh Barton. I'm the Director of
- 14 our Resource Capacity Planning Staff in CDER, and this
- 15 morning I'll be speaking to you the financial topics
- 16 as well a hiring and IT within BsUFA III. These three
- 17 areas are foundational to ensuring the continued
- 18 success of the BsUFA program and providing the
- 19 resources, expertise, and technology to implement the
- 20 BsUFA III enhancements describes by my colleagues
- 21 earlier today. Next slide, please.
- The financial topics were focused on building

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2 Specific commitments in this area include the

1 decision-making processes.

- 3 publication of an implementation plan, which will
- 4 outline the continual improvement approach for the
- 5 capacity-planning adjustment and how it will integrate
- 6 resource capacity planning analytics in the Agency's
- 7 resource and operational decision-making processes for 8 within BsUFA III. We'll provide annual updates on
- 9 progress to that implementation plan and, and document
- 10 how the CPA funds are being used within the BsUFA
- 11 program in the annual financial report.
- 12 There will also be a third-party evaluation
- 13 of the resource capacity planning capability, which
- 14 will be published in fiscal year 2025. And these
- 15 commitments are also designed to be consistent with
- 16 PDUFA, PDUFA VII to build on economies of scale across
- 17 the programs. The next slide, please.
- 18 Around financial transparency, this is
- 19 largely a continuation of existing commitments within
- 20 BsUFA II, whereby we will publish a five-year
- 21 financial plan and hold a public meeting to discuss
- 22 the plan. And that financial plan will be updated

- 1 each year with the corresponding public meeting each
- 2 year. There are a couple of commitments to, specific
- 3 commitments to include certain information in the 5,
- 4 5-year financial plan including reporting on personnel
- 5 compensation and benefits costs that exceed the funds
- 6 provided by the personnel costs and benefit portion of
- 7 the inflation adjustment. This is related to the new
- 8 strategic hiring and retention adjustment, which I
- 9 will speak to you briefly in the next slide. We'll
- 10 speak to how we -- within the five-year financial plan
- 11 how we plan on managing costs related to personnel
- 12 beyond BsUFA III. And we'll provide updates on
- 13 progress towards implementing the plans to reduce the
- 14 carryover balance as committed to in BsUFA II and as,
- 15 as we'll outline in FY '22 financial report. The next
- 16 slide will also have some additional details on that.
- 17 Next slide.
- 18 In terms of modifications or updates to the
- 19 fee adjustment, the fee-setting process, the fee-
- 20 adjustment process each year, the BsUFA III agreement
- 21 includes modifications to the capacity planning
- 22 adjustment to clarify the scope of the inputs of use

1 today is, of course, our ability to hire and retain

- 2 the necessary scientific and technical expertise to
- 3 deliver on the program. In recognition of this under
- 4 BsUFA III, FDA will continue reporting the hiring
- 5 goals on the FDA website.
- 6 And there will also be a targeted assessment
- 7 of hiring and retention to be conducted by independent
- 8 contract or with expertise in HR operations and to be
- 9 overseen by the directors of CDER and CBER. This
- 10 assessment will build on the findings of previous
- 11 evaluations conducted under both PDUFA VI and BsUFA
- 12 III and will focus on, on improvement -- focusing
- 13 improvements on, on remaining challenges. The
- 14 assessment will be published in 2025 and will be
- 15 followed by a public meeting to discuss its findings
- 16 and the Agency's plan to address any recommendations
- 17 coming out of this report. And this also is designed
- 18 to be consistent with the PDUFA VII agreement to build
- 19 on (indiscernible) scale across the programs. Next
- 20 slide.
- 21 But shifting gears to the IT-related goals.
- 22 As you may be aware, the FDA has published its vision

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- 1 in the methodology. It includes a new strategic
- 2 hiring and retention adjustment to provide funds to
- 3 cover costs for retaining high, retaining and hiring
- 4 highly qualified scientific and technical staff for
- 5 the BsUFA program. And it includes enhancements to
- 6 the operating reserve adjustment to, to manage
- 7 financial risks to the program by establishing a
- 8 minimum amount and maximum amount of available
- 9 operating reserves to be maintained each year.
- The defined minimum amount is, is 10 weeks,
- 11 or the equivalent of 10 weeks of operations. And the
- 12 defined maximum is, is phased into 21 weeks. It's
- 13 phased in over the first couple years of BsUFA III, as
- 14 outlined in the slide. So 33 weeks in FY '23, the
- 15 equivalent of 27 weeks in FY '24, and the equivalent
- 16 of 21 weeks in FY '25 and, and subsequent years
- 17 remaining at a maximum of 21 weeks. Next slide.
- So that's, that's -- that concludes the, the
- 19 financial topics, and I'll speak to the hiring as
- 20 well. Hiring is critical to the, the continued
- 21 success of the BsUFA program and the implementation of
- 22 the enhancements discussed earlier in the meeting

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1 for a modernized technology and data environment in

- 2 its, in its, via its T map and, and D map, the
- 3 technology and modernization action plan and the data
- 4 modernization action plan. These commitments are the
- 5 next step establishing and executing on a data and
- 6 technology modernization strategy that reflects the
- 7 vision in those preceding plans providing strategic
- 8 direction and for the future state of, of these data-
- 9 driven initiatives.
- 10 It's intended to increase transparency and
- 11 support FDA to progress in key areas of focus such as
- 12 leverage and (indiscernible) technologies for
- 13 regulatory activities and, and enabling enterprise
- 14 approaches where feasible. FDA will share progress in
- 15 any needed adjustments to the strategy annually. Part
- 16 of the modernization effort is the transition and
- 17 enhancement of the Electronic Submission Gateway, or
- 18 ESD, shifting from an on-premise implementation to a
- 19 cloud-based solution with an improved architecture
- 20 that supports expanded data submission bandwidth and
- 21 storage all while continuing to ensure its stable
- 22 continued operations.

- 1 This modernized cloud-based ESG will include
- 2 an enterprise identify and access management solution.
- 3 It will streamline the registration and access of ESG.
- 4 FDA will continue to provide, provide ESG performance
- 5 metrics as well as periodic progress updates on this
- 6 transition. And, again, these, these commitments are
- 7 designed to be consistent the with PDUFA VII
- commitments as well.
- 9 And with that, I have completed my three
- 10 sections, and we'll hand this back to our moderators.
- 11 Thank you.
- 12 MS. RAY: Thank you, Josh, and thank you to
- 13 all of our presenters. This concludes our overview of
- 14 the proposed enhancements. So we will now take a
- 15 break. As we're running a bit early, the meeting will
- 16 resume at 10:05. Our session following the break will
- 17 be industry comments, and I'll ask that the speakers
- 18 of that session to make sure you're back a few minutes
- 19 early. Thank you.
- 20 AUTOMATED VOICE: Recording stopped.
- 21 (Off the record.)
- 22 (Back on the record.)

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- MS. RAY: Welcome back from our break. And
- 2 now let's move into the next session for industry
- 3 comments. We invited three representatives who were
- 4 actively throughout the negotiation process, and these
- 5 four agreed to participate. They are Cory Wohlbach
- 6 from the Association for Accessible Medicines, Camelia
- 7 Thompson from the Biotechnology Innovation
- 8 Organization, Lucy Vereshchagina from the
- 9 Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of American,
- 10 and Meaghan Smith from the Biosimilars Forum. Each
- 11 speaker will have a maximum of 10 minutes. Cory, you
- 12 are first and may start us off when you're ready.
- 13 MR. WOHLBACH: All right. Good morning,
- 14 everyone. Good afternoon. My name is Cory Wohlbach.
- 15 I'm a Global Vice President for Biosimilar Regulatory
- 16 Affairs at Teva Pharmaceuticals, and today I'm
- 17 speaking on behalf of the Association for Accessible
- 18 Medicines, biosimilar's counsel. I was a BsUFA III
- 19 negotiator sitting with the counsel, and I appreciated
- 20 the opportunity to provide the AM perspective on BsUFA
- 21 III enhancements that are described in the commitment
- 22 letter.

As all of us attending this matter today can 1

- 2 agree, biologic medicines represent one of the great
- 3 medical breakthroughs, breakthroughs of our time
- 4 treating cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's
- 5 Disease, and many other previously untreated, or
- 6 poorly treated conditions. Biosimilars hold the
- 7 promise of making important medicines more accessible
- 8 to patients. Through science that carefully,
- 9 intricately characterizes the underlying protein,
- 10 biosimilar sponsors are able to develop products that
- 11 have no clinically meaningful differences in safety,
- 12 priority, or potency as compared to their
- 13 corresponding originator biologics. Biosimilars are
- 14 projected to save Americans tens of billions of
- 15 dollars over the next decade but only if patients can
- 16 access, access them.
- 17 Since 2010, FDA has approved 31 biosimilars,
- 18 and the pipeline is growing because of, because of
- 19 upcoming patent expirations and investments in R&D by
- 20 biosimilar developments, developers. The programmatic
- 21 enhancements industry and FDA negotiated in BsUFA III
- 22 will support timelier patient access to biosimilars

- 1 helping translate scientific advancements into
- 2 affordable medicines for American patients. AM is
- 3 proud to represent companies that play a leading role
- 4 in this effort. BsUFA has been a successful user fee
- 5 program.
- It has helped increase the rate of first
- 7 cycle approvals for biosimilars, and there is clear
- 8 and predictable pathway to market with a substantial
- 9 body of guidance for industry and well-developed
- 10 meeting structure ensuring sponsors get early and
- 11 meaningful feedback from the FDA on development
- 12 programs. BsUFA III builds, builds on that foundation
- 13 of the existing BsUFA program and will help bring more
- 14 biosimilars to market more quickly by investing in
- 15 regulatory science, further enhancing communication
- 16 between FDA and sponsors, and improving supplement
- 17 review times, among other changes.
- 18 AM is pleased that the BsUFA III program will
- 19 include a regulatory science program. Investing in
- 20 regulatory science will lead to improvements in how
- 21 FDA assess, assess the safety, efficacy, and quality
- 22 of biosimilars. The two newly created pilot programs

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1 will investigate opportunities to streamline

2 biosimilar development and will review the cited

3 requirements to meet the regulatory standard of

4 interchangeability. Importantly, there is ample

5 opportunity for increasing transparency and

6 communication by way of public feedback regarding the

7 regulatory science projects that FDA will undertake.

8 Another significant improvement is to the meeting

9 process, which will enable earlier interaction between

10 biosimilar sponsors and FDA without the need for

11 preliminary analytical data.

12 Additionally, a new BPD Type 2a meeting will

13 help better inform product development by allowing FDA

14 to meet with sponsors on a rapid timeline to discuss

15 very specific questions about biosimilar development

16 plan. These rapid, targeted meetings will ultimately

17 save resources, minimize, minimizing the need for

18 lengthier meeting requests. The negotiating

19 enhancements also include a provision to allow

20 biosimilar sponsors to request that FDA clarify any

21 items following a meeting. Again, to minimize the

22 need to conduct another meeting to increase

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1 efficiencies. These process improvements will go a

2 long way toward bringing biosimilars to market faster

3 and ensuring the biosimilar sponsors submit complete

4 applications to FDA.

5 The BsUFA III agreement will also bring more

6 predictability and efficiency to supplement reviews.

7 Now that more biosimilars have been approved, there is

8 a need to streamline the process by which supplements

9 are approved. The new commitments address this need

10 by establishing different review metrics for different

11 types of supplement, supplemental BLAs.

Finally, FDA has recently approved the first

13 two interchangeable biosimilars, a milestone

14 achievement for the biosimilars community. Still,

15 more work needs to be done to provide additional

16 clarity when seeking this regulatory designation.

17 That is why it is important that the BsUFA III

18 agreement includes commitments for FDA to publish

19 multiple guidance documents related to

20 interchangeability on topics including labeling and

21 post-approval manufacturing changes. We look forward

22 to participating in the development of these

1 guidances, guidance documents through the public

2 comment process.

3 In conclusion, the negotiated BsUFA III

4 agreement includes significant improvements to advance

5 biosimilar development and, ultimately, to improve

6 patient access to high quality, safe, and effective

7 biosimilars. The AM Biosimilar Council strongly

8 encourage the administration in Congress to support

9 the negotiated agreement and to enact it as well.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. RAY: Thank you, Cory. We'll now move to

12 Camelia Thompson from the Biotechnology Innovation

13 Organization.

14 DR. THOMPSON: Good morning, everyone. I am

15 Camelia Thompson, Senior Director in the Science and

16 Regulatory Team at the Biotechnology Innovation

17 Organization. Bio is the world's largest trade

18 association representing biotechnology companies,

19 academic institutions, state biotechnology centers,

20 and related organizations across the United States and

21 in more than 30 other nations. Bio's members develop

22 medical products and technologies to treat patients

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1 afflicted with serious diseases, to delay the onset of 2 these diseases, or to prevent them in the first place.

3 Bio and their member companies strongly

4 supported the establishment of a pathway for the

5 approval of biosimilars because we recognize that

6 market entry of safe and effective biosimilars may

7 provide increased choices for patients and physicians.

8 We remain committed to ensuring the success of the

9 emerging biosimilars market through our engagement and

10 ongoing policy developments related to biosimilars,

11 including our recent participation in the technical

12 negotiations for the reauthorization of BsUFA.

In regards to supplements, BsUFA III will

5 In regards to supplements, DSCI II III win

14 establish new performance goals and timelines for

15 review and action on original supplements to add or

16 remove an indication based on the content of the

17 supplement. For example, the supplement may include

18 efficacy-related datasets. Will also establish new

19 performance goals and timelines for review and action

20 on original supplements seeking to update the labeling

21 for a licensed biosimilar or interchangeable product

22 with regards to applicable safety information that has

- 1 been updated in the referenced product labeling.
- 2 Industry's focus here was predictability, and these
- 3 commitments will provide enhanced efficiency,
- 4 consistency, and predictability for sponsors regarding
- 5 specific review timelines, and, ultimately, enhance
- 6 patient access to biosimilars.
- 7 In regards to labeling, in order to help
- 8 ensure patient safety, it is important that
- 9 manufacturers of biosimilar and interchangeable
- 10 products have a timely, clear, and transparent process
- 11 for adding important risk information to their labels
- 12 when that risk information is the same risk
- 13 information included in the label of the referenced
- 14 product. BsUFA III will facilitate prompt updates to
- 15 safety information by establishing a review timeline
- 16 for safety labeling updates for the biosimilar with
- 17 regards to safety that has been updated in the
- 18 reference product labeling.
- 19 In regards to meeting management, the BsUFA
- 20 III commitments enhance the current formal BPD meeting
- 21 types to better guide industry during the early
- 22 development phase to minimize numerous meeting

1 interactive communication with sponsors during drug

- 2 application review. FDA and industry will discuss
- 3 best practices for communication during application
- 4 review and potential mechanisms to operationalize
- 5 these best practices. Industry will be able to gain
- 6 insight from FDA on preparing for the most productive
- 7 meetings gained in BsUFA III.
- 8 In regards to human factors protocols and
- 9 use-related risk analysis for combination products,
- 10 the demand for Agency review and feedback of proposed
- 11 human factors studies and or user risk-related
- 12 analyses exceeds current staffing. And in contrast to
- 13 PDUFA, there are no specific review goals agreed up on
- 14 under BsUFA. BsUFA III will establish predictable
- 15 timeframes for when to expect Agency feedback for the
- 16 review of URRA and human factors study protocols.
- 17 This will have a significant impact on
- 18 program development and application submission for
- 19 drug device combination products. BsUFA also provides
- 20 funding for additional FTEs based on the new review
- 21 timelines. Guidance is also forthcoming regarding how
- 22 a URRA along with other information can be used to

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- 1 requests to the FDA due to early and effective
- 2 collaboration and more efficiently support ongoing
- 3 development programs. The BIA meeting description
- 4 will be modified to enable sponsors to attain early
- 5 FDA advice on overall development design including,
- 6 but not limited to, novel study designs or endpoints
- 7 or specific statistical approaches.
- 8 This can enable sponsors to discuss the
- 9 feasibility of 351(k) licensure for their product
- 10 earlier in development. A new meeting type will focus
- 11 on a narrow set of issues and is subject to a 60-day
- 12 goal to allow for rapid, targeted feedback. This will
- 13 speed the process of obtaining input on focused
- 14 targeted questions. The clarification of FDA feedback
- 15 and comments will ensure a sponsor's understanding of
- 16 FDA feedback and comments made during an FDA sponsor
- 17 meeting or in a WRO would support efficient product
- 18 development.
- 19 In regards to best practices, best practices
- 20 for communications during biosimilar application
- 21 review are the responsibility of both industry and
- 22 FDA. This initiative will continue to enhance timely

1 inform when the results from a human factors

- 2 validation study may need to be submitted to a
- 3 marketing application.
- 4 On behalf of Bio, we look forward to working
- 5 with all of you. This concludes my remarks, and thank
- 6 you for your time.
- 7 MS. RAY: Thank you, Camelia. We'll now move
- 8 to Lucy Vereshchagina from Pharmaceutical Research and
- 9 Manufacturers of America.
- 10 DR. VERESHCHAGINA: Thank you and good
- 11 morning, everyone. I'm Lucy Vereshchagina, Vice
- 12 President of Science and Regulatory Advocacy at the
- 13 Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America,
- 14 or PhRMA.
- 15 PhRMA is a trade association that represents
- 16 America's leading innovative biopharmaceutical
- 17 research companies, which are devoted to discovering
- 18 and developing medicines that enable patients to live
- 19 longer, healthier, and more productive lives. PhRMA's
- 20 membership includes mainly leading biopharmaceutical
- 21 companies actively developing biosimilar medicines,
- 22 and we appreciate the opportunity to participate in

- 1 today's public stakeholder meeting and would like to
- 2 thank the FDA and our fellow negotiators for
- 3 developing important and impactful BsUFA III
- 4 performance goals (indiscernible).
- 5 As many speakers before me mentioned,
- 6 biosimilars are playing an increasingly critical role
- 7 in bringing new options to patients and increasing
- 8 competition. As previously mentioned, there is 31 FDA
- 9 approved biosimilar products currently, including two
- 10 interchangeable biosimilars as well as nearly a
- 11 hundred programs in the FDA's biosimilar program. And
- 12 while the U.S. has not had the biosimilar market in
- 13 place as long as the EU, the U.S. market has
- 14 significantly walked over the (indiscernible).
- And, in fact, the U.S. has approved more
- 16 biosimilar products than the EU have in a comparable
- 17 period of time. And this is largely due to the
- 18 regularity predictability and efficiencies that have
- 19 been provided by the FDA's successful implementation
- 20 of the abbreviated approval pathway for biosimilars
- 21 and the resources provided to BsUFA.
- As a result of growing competition,

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- 1 annualized savings due to biosimilars reached \$6.5
- 2 billion dollars in 2020 and potential savings
- 3 estimated to exceed \$100 billion dollars in the
- 4 aggregate between 2020 and 2024. Many innovative
- 5 medicines are now competing with multiple biosimilar
- 6 versions with some brand biologics currently facing
- 7 competition from four to five biosimilars. And in
- 8 2021, average sale prices of biosimilars were as much
- 9 as 45 percent less than the originator's price of the
- 10 initial biosimilars (indiscernible).
- PhRMA has been a strong supporter of and
- 12 participant in BsUFA since its inception in 2012. And
- 13 through the target of improvements outlined in the
- 14 BsUFA III performance goals whether BsUFA III will
- 15 build on the success of the program and help increase
- 16 timely access to safe and effective biosimilar and
- 17 interchangeable biosimilar products for patients.
- 18 I will highlight (indiscernible) provisions
- 19 in the performance goals so (inaudible) specifically
- 20 BsUFA III will advance development of interchangeable
- 21 biosimilar products by providing information and
- 22 guidance to sponsors for development of biosimilar and

- 1 interchangeable biosimilar products. BsUFA III will
- 2 also inform us of strategic development of guidance,
- 3 best practices, and procedures, specifically that they
- 4 will issue guidance on topics conditional for the
- 5 development of interchangeable biosimilar products,
- 6 hold a scientific workshop, and develop a strategy
- 7 document on the development of interchangeable
- 8 products. And they will also file a, a regulatory
- 9 science program, which clearly outlines demonstration
- 10 projects and deliverables focused on advancing the
- 11 development of interchangeable biosimilar products and
- 12 improving the efficiency of biosimilar product
- 13 development.
- 14 BsUFA III will also enhance manufacturing,
- 15 inspection, (indiscernible) communications, and
- 16 modernize facility assessment of (indiscernible),
- 17 which is based on (indiscernible). Specifically,
- 18 BsUFA III will promote timely FDA communication
- 19 responses regarding manufacturing facility inspections
- 20 and provide guidance on the use of (indiscernible) of
- 21 tools to assess manufacturing facilities' names, named
- 22 in pending applications.

- 1 BsUFA III will also modernize (indiscernible)
- 2 infrastructure and support adoption of (indiscernible)
- 3 technologies and to modernize of this data and
- 4 (indiscernible) capabilities in allowing
- 5 (indiscernible) efforts, BsUFA III will support
- 6 (indiscernible)-based modernization of the Electronic
- 7 Submission Gateway with an improved architecture that
- 8 supports expanding data submission, bandwidth, and
- 9 storage.
- 10 BsUFA III will also enact, enhance
- 11 accountability and transparency in (indiscernible)
- 12 activities and with organization plans by establishing
- 13 a strategy on data-driven regulatory initiatives.
- 14 BsUFA III will also enhance of this hiring,
- 15 retention, and financial management and will build on
- 16 the foundational works started in BsUFA II to
- 17 modernize financial and staff resource management,
- 18 accountability, and transparency, including clear
- 19 hiring goals and progress reporting. The additional
- 20 staff will help ensure that the new BsUFA III
- 21 initiative are implementable and that the Agency has
- 22 supportive resources in place.

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1 BsUFA III also includes other important

2 commitments covered in details by Dr. Thompson before

3 me and other speakers earlier today such as specific

4 timelines for review of certain applications documents

5 including those seeking to update safety labeling to

6 effect changes to the referenced product labeling,

7 identification to existing meeting types, and

8 establishment of when your meeting type for rapid

9 targeted feedback to enable timely corrections between

10 sponsors and their biosimilar drug development and

11 review.

12 In conclusion, BsUFA III will play a critical

13 role in improving the predictable, timely, and

14 efficient development and regulatory review of

15 biosimilar and interchangeable biosimilar products.

16 And PhRMA fully supports both the proposed BsUFA

17 performance goals as well as the timely legislative

18 reauthorization of BsUFA. PhRMA looks forward to

19 working with FDA, Congress, patient, and medical

20 provider groups, and other stakeholders to ensure

21 timely authorization of this important program and to

22 make sure that there are no disruption to their daily

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1 activities. Thank you, and thank you for your time.

2 MS. RAY: Thank you, Lucy. We'll now move to

3 Meaghan Smith from the Biosimilar Forum.

4 MS. SMITH: Thanks so much. Good morning,

5 everyone. I'm Meaghan Smith. I'm an Executive

6 Director of the Biosimilars Forum. On behalf of our

7 members, I am pleased to participate in today's public

8 meeting on the reauthorization of the Biosimilar User

9 Fee Act. The Forum is a nonprofit trade association

10 whose mission is to educate stakeholders on the value

11 of biosimilars and to improve access to biosimilars in

12 the United States. We thank FDA for your

13 collaboration and hard work in negotiating the BsUFA

14 III commitment letter.

15 Biosimilars are a key contributor to

16 healthcare savings in the U.S. Although biologic

17 drugs represent only two percent of medicines

18 prescribed to patients in the U.S., the cost of these

19 drugs represent approximately 40 percent of total

20 prescription drug spending. Biosimilars provide the

21 necessary competition to allow Americans access to

22 lower-cost biologic alternatives, and their timely

1 licensure is critical to ensuring patient access to

2 many life-saving or life-altering medications. The

3 Biosimilars Forum believes that the improvements to

4 the biosimilar review program under BsUFA III

5 represents FDA's dedication to bringing biosimilars to

6 the market as efficiently as possible.

We applaud FDA's willingness to engage

8 sponsors early in the development process and provide

9 targeted feedback. We are glad to see that the

10 commitment letter codifies the timeliness the Agency

11 had agreed to for labeling supplement reviews,

12 improves upon those safety labeling supplements, and

13 includes supplements to add an indication without

14 additional data. These commitments will go a long way

15 toward improving the efficiency of the biosimilar

16 review process.

17 The Forum was and is very supportive of FDA's

18 inclusion of a regulatory science program under BsUFA

19 III. We very much agree with FDA that regulatory

20 science is key to bringing more biosimilars to market

21 and perhaps, eventually, streamlining the pathway to

22 market for certain biosimilar applications. Better

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1 regulatory science will both, both stir the Agency's

2 understanding of analytical similarity, which, in

3 turn, may reduce the need for confirmatory clinical

4 studies in certain cases thereby enabling biosimilars

5 to be made available to patients sooner.

6 FDA's focus on interchangeability through the

7 regulatory science program should help to bring much

8 needed clarity and guidance just as more

9 interchangeable products reach the market. We are

10 excited the FDA licensed the first interchangeable

11 products this year, and we anticipate that by the end

12 of BsUFA III, FDA will have even more experience with

13 the development and approval of interchangeable

14 biological products.

While these changes are laudable, the Forum

16 does want to call attention to the impact of the

17 current inspectional backlog on FDA's ability to meet

18 its BsUFA III commitments. The COVID-related

19 inspectional backlog has disproportionately affected

20 biosimilars. The percentage of on-time actions for

21 original biosimilar product applications, including

22 resubmissions, plunged from 100 percent during Q3 of

- 1 FY 2020 to 75 percent during Q4 and further dropped to
- 2 67 percent during Q1 of FY 2021.
- 3 This trend for biosimilar applications is
- 4 markedly worse than for other user fee programs and
- 5 suggests that biosimilars have been more adversely
- 6 affected by pandemic-related inspectional issues. For
- 7 the BsUFA III commitment letter to be a success and
- 8 for FDA to continue to meet its goals of first cycle
- 9 licensure of biosimilar and interchangeable products,
- 10 the inspectional backlog must be addressed.
- 11 As, as we head into BsUFA III, we look
- 12 forward with the Agency to implement the commitment
- 13 letter to the mutual benefit of biosimilar sponsors
- 14 and FDA. We are excited by the fact that there is now
- 15 a robust enough biosimilar industry with enough
- 16 development experience to help BsUFA mature over the
- 17 next five years. We are at a critical inflection
- 18 point for the industry, and we believe that the
- 19 commitments FDA has made to biosimilar review will be
- 20 critically important to sustaining and submitting the
- 21 biosimilar pathway for years to come.
- 22 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

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- 1 The Forum strongly supports FDA's ongoing efforts to
- 2 advance a robust biosimilars program. We are happy to
- 3 offer our members time and expertise towards ensuring
- 4 the continued success of the BsUFA program. Thank
- 5 you.
- 6 MS. RAY: Thank you, Meaghan. We'll now move
- 7 into the final session of today's meeting, the Open
- 8 Public Comment. This is another important mechanism
- 9 to engage the public in a conversation. Please keep
- 10 in mind that FDA will not be responding to your
- 11 comments, but they will be transcribed and be part of
- 12 the public record. To facilitate a transparent
- 13 process, we encourage you to note any financial
- 14 interests that you have that are related to your
- 15 comment.
- 16 If you do not have such interests, you may
- 17 state that for the record. And if you prefer not to
- 18 provide this information, you can still provide your
- 19 comment. We collect an online request for comment as
- 20 part of the meeting registration process. We have 4
- 21 people signed up. Each speaker will have 10 minutes
- 22 to speak. As I stated previously, I'll verbally

- 1 announce when your time is nearly up and then again
- 2 shortly after the 10-minute mark if necessary. We
- 3 will hear today from Cate Lockhart from the Biologic
- 4 and Biosimilars Collective Intelligence Consortium and
- 5 Radia Hocini from El Kendi Pharmaceutical.
- 6 We also had signed up Geetanjali Saini from
- 7 Abhilashi College of Pharmacy and Andrew Siegel from
- 8 the Global Colon Cancer Association, but they were not
- 9 able to log in today. When I call your name, please
- 10 unmute yourself and begin your comment. If you are
- 11 having technical issues, please let us know and we can
- 12 move onto the next person and come back to you once
- 13 they're resolved. First up, we have Kate Lockhart.
- 14 DR. LOCKHART: Good morning, and thank you to
- 15 the FDA for the opportunity to provide public comment.
- 16 My name is Cate Lockhart, and I am the Executive
- 17 Director of the Biologics and Biosimilars Collective
- 18 Intelligence Consortium, or BBCIC. My organization
- 19 resides under the umbrella of AMCP, the Academy of
- 20 Managed Care Pharmacy. BBCIC is the only nonprofit
- 21 research consortium dedicated to evaluating the real-
- 22 world safety and effectiveness of biologics, including

- 1 biosimilars, through a transparent science-driven
- 2 approach to using real world data.
- 3 Our mission is to generate reliable real-
- 4 world evidence that examines the safety and
- 5 effectiveness of biologics in order to, to improve
- 6 public health. BBCIC is a public service initiative
- 7 that draws on de-identified healthcare data covering
- 8 over 90 million patient lives in the BBCIC distributed
- 9 research network that leverages some of the
- 10 infrastructure and tools developed by the FDA for
- 11 their sentinel system.
- 12 As a true consortium, BBCIC includes
- 13 participants from stakeholder groups across the
- 14 healthcare system including pharmaceutical
- 15 manufacturers, health plans or insurance companies,
- 16 pharmacy benefit managers, patient advocates,
- 17 clinician experts, and academic scientists who all
- 18 come to the table with the shared goal of producing
- 19 rigorous unbiased research to build the evidence base
- 20 around biologics including biosimilars.
- 21 My comments address FDA's commitment to
- 22 enhancing regulatory decision-making and facilitating

Page 62 Page 64 1 science-based recommendations through the regulatory 1 patient outcomes and other effects of real-world 2 science pilot program and its two demonstrated 2 product switching or confirmatory studies for 3 projects. BBCIC supports FDA's commitment to 3 regulatory decisions. 4 4 investigate and evaluate the data and information, In conclusion, I would like to thank today's 5 including real-world evidence, or RWE, to meet 5 attendees for their attention and to FDA for the 6 opportunity to provide public comment and for their 6 evidence standards for determining interchangeability. 7 BBCIC also supports FDA's goal to improve the 7 consideration of BBCIC's perspective. Thank you very 8 efficiency of biosimilar product development, 8 much for your time. 9 especially through the enhancement of regulatory 9 MS. RAY: Thank you, Cate. We will now move 10 decision-making based on the latest scientific 10 onto Radia. Radia, if you could please unmute 11 knowledge. 11 yourself and turn on your video, and you can begin 12 While BBCIC encourages FDA's continued 12 your comment. You should see a mute or unmute button 13 adoption of RWE as part of the regulatory process, we 13 in the bottom right corner of your screen. We can 14 also recommend FDA identify and utilize additional 14 hear you. 15 sources of RWE like those from BBCIC that focus 15 DR. HOCINI: (Indiscernible.) 16 explicitly on biologics to foster efficiency and 16 AUTOMATED VOICE: Recording stopped. 17 consistency by more broadly leveraging the evidence 17 AUTOMATED VOICE: Recording in progress. 18 base of RWE. 18 MS. RAY: Thank you, Radia. It sounds like 19 For instance, BBCIC routinely conducts 19 we're having some trouble hearing. So that will 20 longitudinal and utilization analyses for products 20 conclude our meeting. Thank you to all of the public 21 with available biosimilars to describe real-world 21 commenters. Like I said, this concludes our public 22 product use and treatment patterns, patient 22 meeting on the proposed BsUFA reauthorization. FDA Page 65 Page 63 1 characteristics, and clinical outcomes. Currently, we 1 values all of the input that's been generated from 2 today's discussion, and we look, look forward to 2 are conducting a large-scale retrospective real-world 3 receiving further comments to our public document. 3 comparative safety and effectiveness study of all GSF 4 products, both filgrastim and pegfilgrastim referenced 4 Anyone from the public is welcome to contribute 5 through the public docket. The recording for this 5 products, and biosimilars. This is an ambitious 6 study. It's the first study of its kind and scale. 6 meeting and the transcript will also be posted to 7 We are also studying medication switching patterns and 7 FDA's BsUFA III webpage. 8 outcomes in patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated 8 (Whereupon, at 10:41 a.m., the proceeding was 9 concluded.) 9 with immunomodulating therapies, including tumor 10 10 necrosis factor inhibitors and janus kinase 11 inhibitors. Additionally, we're driving the state of 11 12 12 real-world research through ongoing methods and 13 infrastructure development initiatives. 13 14 14 Finally, BBCIC believes the use of RWE also 15 15 supports FDA's goal to promote transparency in 16 16 regulatory decisions by expanding the use of well-17 17 designed real-world studies as supplemental 18 18 information beyond randomized clinical -- randomized 19 controlled trials to better capture the diversity of a 19 20 real patient population. Real-world studies offer a 20 21 21 means to efficiently evaluate questions that are

22

22 pertinent to all healthcare stakeholders such as

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