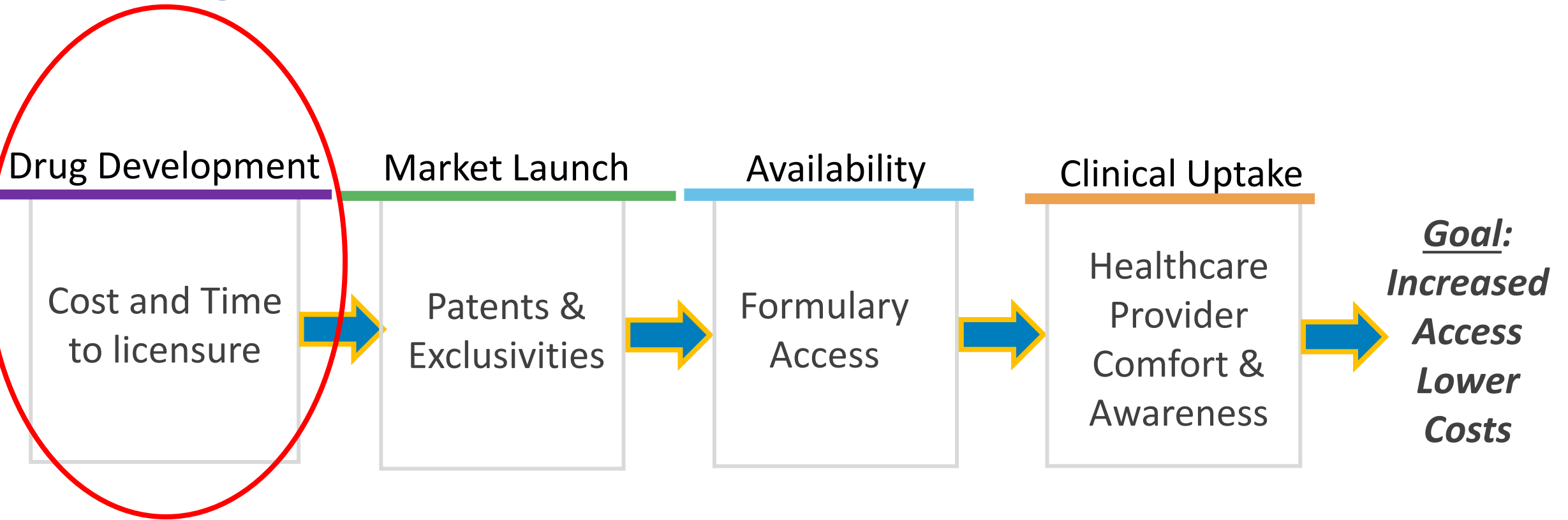


# Overview and Current Status of the BsUFA III Regulatory Science Program



**Steven Kozlowski, M.D., Director Office of Biotechnology Products**  
**SBIA BsUFA III Regulatory Science Pilot Program October 16, 2023**

# Challenges and Barriers for Biosimilars in the U.S.



[Biosimilars in the United States 2023-2027 – IQVIA](https://www.biosimilarscouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/AAM-Biosimilars-Council-Failure-to-Launch-2-web.pdf)

<https://www.biosimilarscouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/AAM-Biosimilars-Council-Failure-to-Launch-2-web.pdf>

[Comparison of Uptake and Prices of Biosimilars in the US, Germany, and Switzerland | Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology | JAMA Network Open | JAMA Network](#)

[Biosimilar Cost Savings in the United States | RAND](#)

<https://www.cardinalhealth.com/content/dam/corp/web/documents/Report/cardinal-health-2022-biosimilars-report.pdf>

*“no clinically meaningful differences”*

# Establishing Biosimilarity



*“highly similar”*

*Wikipedia Commons, Owen Lloyd, AJseagul*

# BsUFA III Regulatory Science Commitment

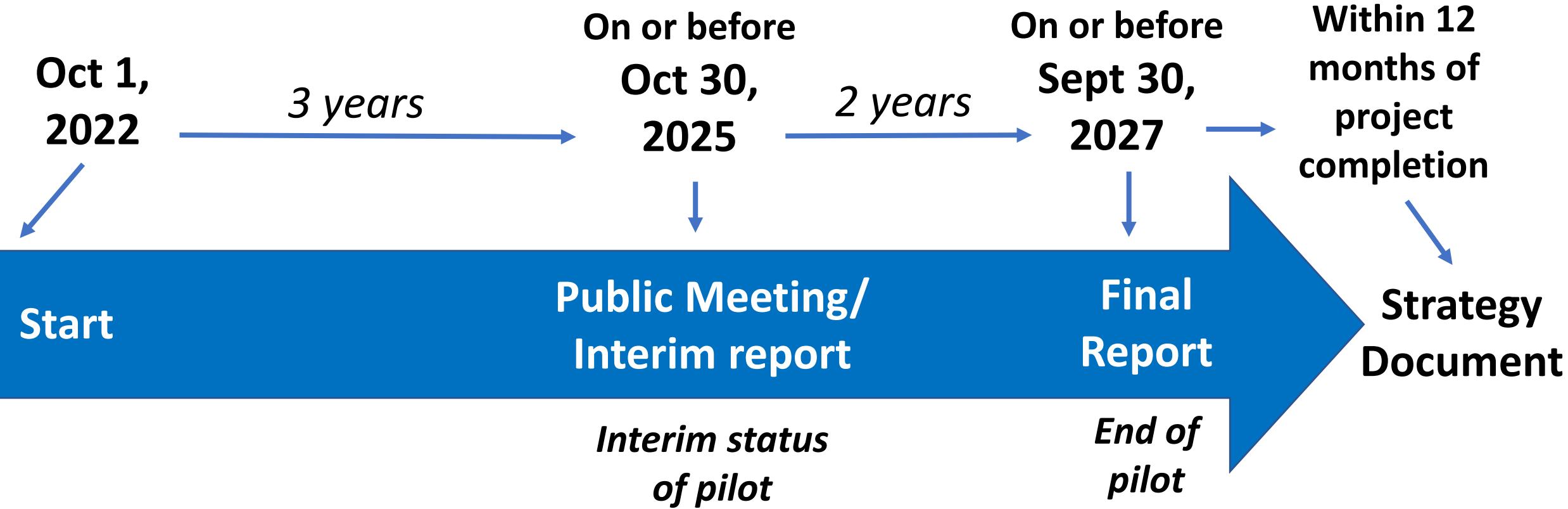
FDA is committed to enhancing regulatory decision-making and facilitating science-based recommendations in areas foundational to biosimilar development.

FDA will pilot a regulatory science program to facilitate ways to

- (1) improve the efficiency of biosimilar product development and
- (2) advance the development of interchangeable products.

[Commitment Letter](#)

# Regulatory Science Pilot Program Deliverables



# Regulatory Science Pilot Program Goals Focus on Composition of the 351 (k) Data Package



## Current “Abbreviated”: 351(k) BLA



→  
Program Experience  
Policy Development  
**Regulatory Research**

## Potential Future “Abbreviated”: 351(k) BLA



## Regulatory Impact #1: Increase the accuracy and capability of analytical (structural and functional) and CMC characterization

- a. Define and **standardize approaches** for assessing and reporting product quality attributes
- b. **Characterize relationships** between product quality attributes and clinical outcomes
- c. **Improve on** and/ or develop new analytical technologies
- d. Assess the impact of differences of biosimilar and reference **product presentations** (e.g., delivery device) and container closure systems on product protection, safety, compatibility, and performance

## Regulatory Impact #2: Develop alternatives to and/ or reduce the size of studies involving human subjects

- e. Develop **alternatives to the comparative immunogenicity** assessment currently conducted as part of the comparative clinical study
- f. Develop **alternatives to the comparative immunogenicity** assessment currently conducted as part of the switching study
- g. Develop alternatives to **clinical bridging data** from a non-US approved comparator
- h. Increase use of **pharmacodynamic (PD) biomarkers** instead of or in conjunction with clinical endpoints
- i. Clarify which **user interface differences** that are likely to affect the safe and effective use of interchangeable products
- j. Define **methodologies** to assess differences in **user interfaces** that may lead to differences in safe and effective use of interchangeable products

<https://www.fda.gov/media/164751/download>



# Research Outcome and Regulatory Impact Reporting Structure

## Regulatory Impacts: Priorities

1. Increase the accuracy and capability of analytical (structural and functional) and CMC characterization

- a. Define and standardize approaches
- b. Characterize relationships
- c. Improved/new technologies
- d. product presentations

2. Develop alternatives to and/or reduce the size of studies involving human subjects

- e. Alternatives to the comparative clinical immunogenicity
- f. Alternatives to the comparative immunogenicity in switching studies
- g. Alternatives o clinical bridging data for use of a non-US comparator
- h. Increase use of PD instead of clinical endpoints
- i. Identify high risk user interface differences
- j. Methodologies to assess user interfaces for interchangeables



## Demonstration Projects

- Advancing the development of interchangeable products
- Improve the efficiency of biosimilar product development

## Methods to Consider

Analytical Methods  
Biological Assays  
Efficient clinical design  
Model-informed drug development  
In silico/in-vitro modeling  
Machine Learning/ AI  
Real World Evidence/ Data  
Pharmacological studies

***\*Research Roadmap under revision!***



# External Projects Funded by BsUFA III Pilot Program:

*Increase the accuracy and capability of analytical characterization*

<b>Funding Year</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Title</b>
FY22	NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PHARM TECH/EDUC	<b>Platform for reliable characterization and evaluation of comparability of biosimilar drug products in lyophilized and liquid formulations</b>
FY22	U.S. PHARMACOPEIA	<b>Assessment of the performance of MAM vs conventional QC methods for evaluation of Product Quality Attributes of adalimumab and etanercept</b>
FY22	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT ANN ARBOR	<b>Systematic Analytical Characterization of Innovator and Biosimilar Products with the Focus on Post-translational Modifications</b>

# Internal Projects Funded by BsUFA III Pilot Program:

*Increase the accuracy and capability of analytical characterization*

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## Project Title

**Bioassay - Enhanced biosimilar testing capabilities**

**Landscape assessment of biosimilar submissions (analytical, PK, PD, and comparative studies)**

**Establishment of A Feasible Method to Quantify Major Glycoforms of Human IgG1 mAb Drugs and their Biosimilars in Culture Media as a Component of Process Analytic Technology**

**OnePotGlycan - A chemoenzymatic method for simultaneous profiling of N and O-glycans in one-pot**

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# External Projects Funded by BsUFA III Pilot Program:

*Develop alternatives to and/or reduce the size of studies involving human subjects*



<b>Funding Year</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Title</b>
FY22	ACADEMY OF MANAGED CARE PHARMACY, INC.	<b>Improving the Efficiency of Regulatory Decisions for Biosimilars and Interchangeable Biosimilars by Leveraging Real-World Data</b>
FY22	EPIVAX, INC.	<b>ISPRI-HCP: CHO protein impurity immunogenicity risk prediction for improving biosimilar product development and assessing product interchangeability</b>
FY23	ACADEMY OF MANAGED CARE PHARMACY, INC.	<b>Bridging the Gap: Using Foreign Real-World Data to Inform Interchangeable Biosimilar Approvals</b>

# Internal Projects Funded by BsUFA III Pilot Program:

*Develop alternatives to and/or reduce the size of studies involving human subjects*



## Project Title

**Validation of a non-clinical immunogenicity model**

**IIRMI Assay Standards - Develop acceptance parameters and standards for the Innate Immune Response Modulating Impurities (IIRMI) assays in the biosimilar space**

**Addressing fundamental issues for in vitro immunogenicity testing**

**Production & optimization of humanized mice**

**Translating Clinical Pharmacology Biosimilar [PD Biomarker] Research Findings into Best Practices for Industry and FDA Review Staff**

**Evidence-based approach to the design of clinical pharmacology studies**

**Critical Factors for Standardization and Accuracy of PK Assays of PEGylated Biosimilars**

# Research Priorities Addressed by Awarded Funds

Internal (FY24)										
Internal (FY23)										
External (FY23)										
External (FY22)										
Research Priorities	<b>A:</b> Standardize CAA	<b>B:</b> Clin outcome of PQA	<b>C:</b> Improve methods for CAA	<b>D:</b> Impact of device/contain closure	<b>E:</b> Predict immunog. for CCS	<b>F:</b> Predict immunog. for switching	<b>G:</b> Non-US-comparat. bridging	<b>H:</b> PD biomarkers	<b>I:</b> Impact of user interface on interchang.	<b>J:</b> Methods to assess user interface

Enhance the efficiency of the analytical and CMC characterization

Develop alternatives to and/or reduce the size of studies involving human subjects

# BsUFA III Reg Sci Program Operational Structure & Decision Making

## Strategic and Final Input

CDER Leadership - Final funding decisions on research portfolio



## Regulatory Science Evaluation

Discipline SMEs - Evaluates and oversees research portfolio



## Regulatory Science Pilot Program

Program Management - Provides individual project tracking

Office of Acquisition and Grant Services (OAGS)

[Grants 101 | GRANTS.GOV](https://www.fda.gov/grants)



FDA Project Officers



External Grants



Internal Projects

Internal review process



# External Funding Processes

## BAA

FDA funds extramural research through an agency-wide Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)

FY24 FDA Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Advanced Research and Development of Regulatory Science

**FDABAA-24-00123**

[SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov)

The FY24 Announcement includes Biosimilar Regulatory Science Language

## OAGS

Duration of the award – 1-2 years

Closeout

Post-award Monitoring

6-12 Months

Planning

Announcement

Award

Negotiation

Application Evaluation

OAGS Objective Review Process

FDA

Adapted from FDA Office of Acquisition & Grants Services (OAGS)

[Grants 101 | GRANTS.GOV](https://www.grants.gov)



# Additional Information

**For information, please reach out to:**

- [BsUFA Reg Sci Program](#)

## **Resources:**

- [Biosimilars | FDA](#)
- [Biosimilars | Science and Research | FDA](#)

**Thank you!**