Reply to Solnick

To the Editor—With regard to the letter by Solnick, we are continually astounded by the assumption that those of us who design, conduct, and publish the findings of clinical trials are somehow tainted and present biased views in order to advertise.

Yes, several of us on the recent manuscript [1] have conducted large, expensive trials funded by industry (because who else has the funds to undertake these efforts?) that test the efficacy and safety of new antibiotics (telavancin, ceftaroline, oritavancin, daptomycin, tedizolid, etc). As a result, physicians and patients are provided with new options for the treatment of bacterial infections caused by pathogens that continue to develop new resistance patterns. Suggesting that physicians who do not conduct trials can accurately evaluate these new antibiotics is much like suggesting that we can care for patients by just reading about infections in textbooks.

Yes, a few of the authors are employees of the company supporting the work, but are bound by international authorship principles and their own internal compliance requirements. Their motivation is to ensure that if a clinician chooses to prescribe the antibiotic under scrutiny, it is done so in an optimal fashion that maximizes efficacy and safety.

Years of conducting clinical trials has given us the experience and expertise required to accurately report their results. We work hard to do the best we can to inform the medical community—probably not perfectly, but certainly honestly.
Note

Potential conflict of interest. M. E. S. has received personal fees from Achaogen, Cerexa, and Theravance, and grants from Cempra, Theravance, Furiex, JMI Laboratories, The Medicines Company, and Duke Clinical Research Institute. G. R. C. has received fees for scientific advisory boards from Nabriva, Medtronic, Cubist, Pfizer, The Medicines Company, Theravance, Cempra, Cerexa/Forest/Actavis, Trius/Merck, Achaogen, GlaxoSmithKline, and Melinta.

Both authors have submitted the ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest. Conflicts that the editors consider relevant to the content of the manuscript have been disclosed.

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Reference


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