

# Problems with Pharmacovigilance Programs: an Opportunity for Improvement

Philip Schneider, MS, FASHP, FFIP  
Advisory Board Chair, ASBM

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# *Introduction*

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- **Philip Schneider, MS, FASHP, FFIP**
- Advisory Board Chair, Alliance for Safe Biologic Medicines
- Past Vice President, International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)
- Past-President, American Society of Health-system Pharmacists
- Professor of Pharmacy, Ohio State University

# About ASBM

Formed in 2010 with the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Biosimilar Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCIA); with the goal of keeping patient safety at the forefront of biosimilar policy discussions.



**SafeBiologics**  
ALLIANCE for SAFE BIOLOGIC MEDICINES

ASBM's Steering Committee is composed entirely of patient and physician member organizations.

- PATIENT ADVOCATES
- PHYSICIANS
- PHARMACISTS
- RESEARCHERS
- MANUFACTURERS (INNOVATOR & BIOSIMILAR)



**More than 130 organizations spread across six continents;** the More than 130 organizations spread across six continents; the majority of these are patient groups, including several patient coalitions.

# ASBM Physician and Pharmacist Surveys

## U.S. Physicians

2012: n=376

2015 n=400

2015: n=400

2019: n=202

2021 n= 400

## U.S. Pharmacists

2015 n=401

## Latin American Physicians

(Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico)

2015: n=399

## Canadian Physicians

2014: n=427

2017: n=427

2021 (planned)

## European Physicians

(France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, UK)

2013: n=470

2019: n=579

## Australian Physicians

2016: n=160

*All surveys available at [www.SafeBiologics.org/surveys](http://www.SafeBiologics.org/surveys)*



# ***Sharing Perspectives With Regulators***

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION INN CONSULTATIONS  
(2013-2022)**

**AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION (2017)**

**HEALTH CANADA, CANADIAN HEALTH MINISTRY (2017)**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF DRUG REGULATORY  
AUTHORITIES (ICDRA) (2016, 2018)**

**ASBM INTERNATIONAL REGULATOR FORUMS  
ON NOMENCLATURE HARMONIZATION  
(FDA, HEALTH CANADA, WHO) 2018-2019**

**EU COMMISSION/EMA BIOSIMILARS MEETING (2019)**

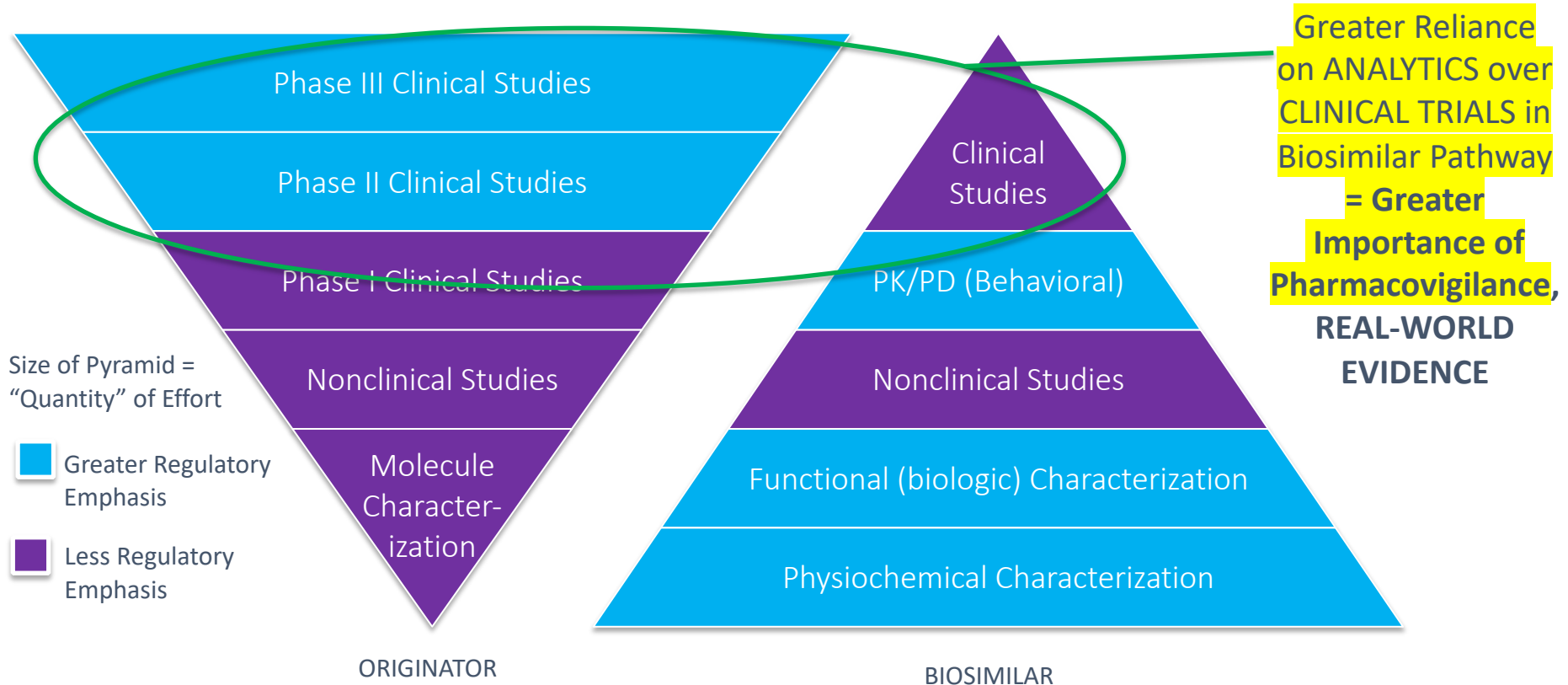
**U.S. FDA/FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION WORKSHOP ON BIOSIMILAR COMPETITION  
(MARCH 2020)**



**SafeBiologics**  
ALLIANCE for SAFE BIOLOGIC MEDICINES



# Approval Pathway: Originator vs. Biosimilar



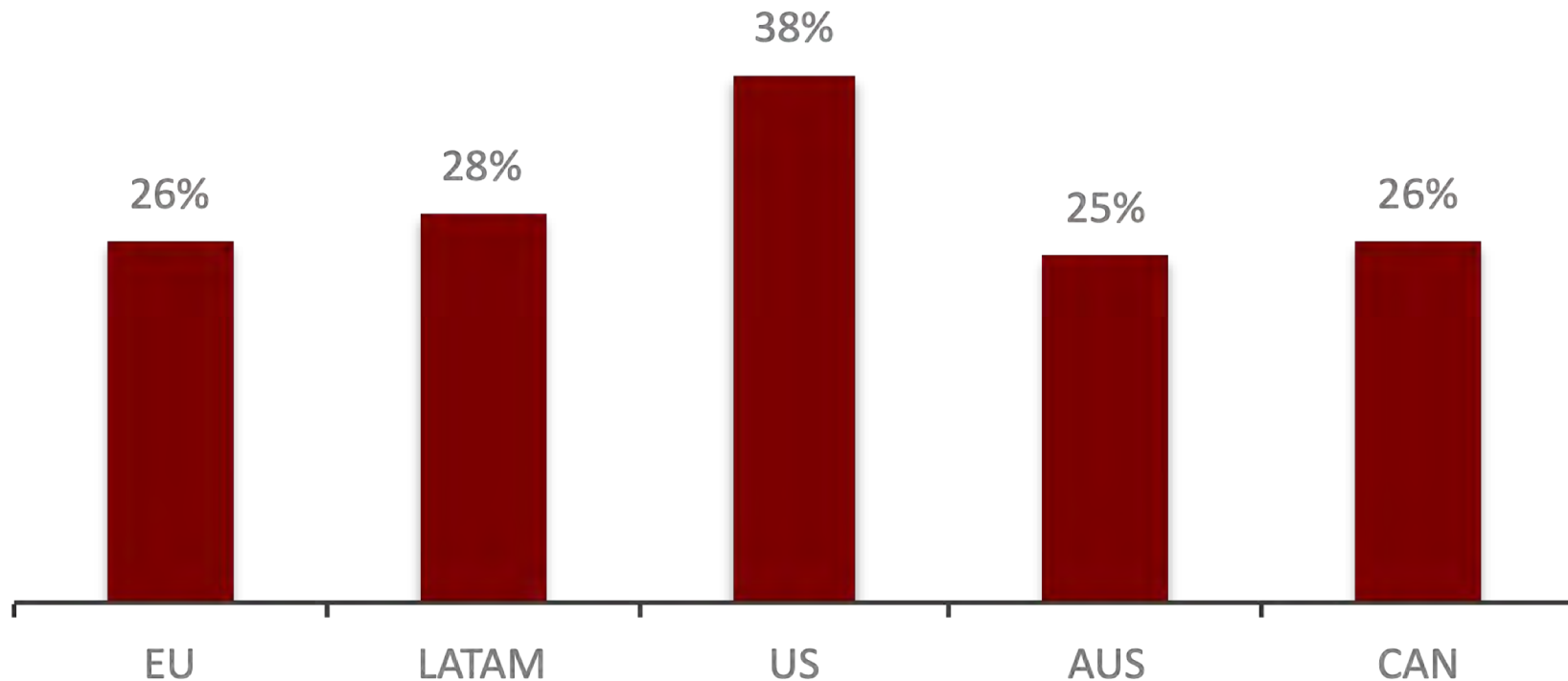
## Challenge: Originator Product and Biosimilars share an WHO-assigned International Proprietary Name (INN)

- **For example, all the products on the right use the INN “infliximab”**
- Trade names differ from country to country.
- **This can become confusing and result in:**
  - **Misattribution of adverse events**
  - **Inadvertent or inappropriate substitution**
  - **Inaccurate patient records**
  - **Inability to do targeted recalls**

Manufacturer	Trade Name(s)
Janssen	Remicade
Amgen	Avsola
BCD-055	Biocad
Celltrion/Hospira (Pfizer)	Remsima/Inflectra/Flammegis/Ifixi
Epirus	Infimab
MabTech/Sorrento	STI-002
MabTech/Sorrento	CMA-B008
Nichi-Iko	NI-071
Nippon Kayaku	Infliximab BS
Ranbaxy	BOW015
Samsung Bioepis	Flixabi
Sandoz	Zessly
Shanghai Biomabs	Baimaibo

## ***ASBM Surveys (2013-2017): Percent of Physicians Using Only INN when Reporting Adverse Events.***

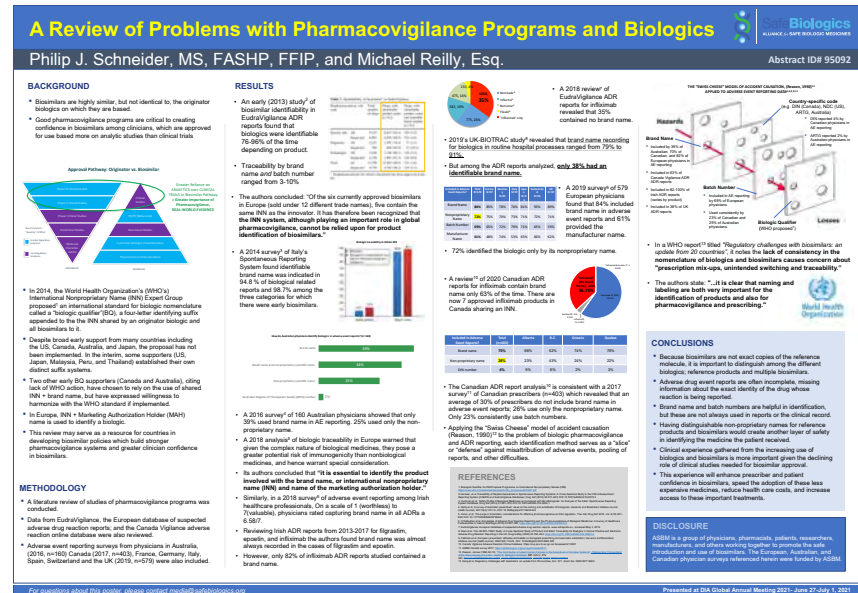
*(This could result in improper attribution or pooling of adverse events.)*





# DIA 2021 Poster: “A Review of Problems with Global Pharmacovigilance” (June 27-July 1)

- Examined published literature on identifiability of biologic products.
- Focused on problems in adverse event reporting
- Found that identifiability to the product level is important to physicians.
- Yet recording of brand names in adverse event reporting varies wildly from country to country, and between practice settings.
- More than a third of AE reports in Canada and Europe do not contain brand name.

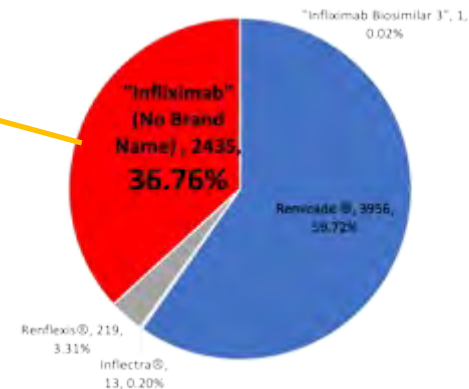
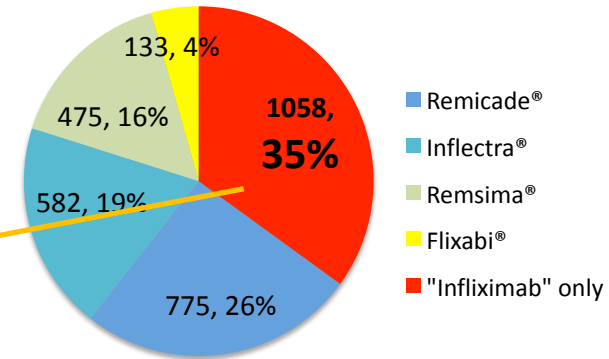


See a video walkthrough of the poster here..



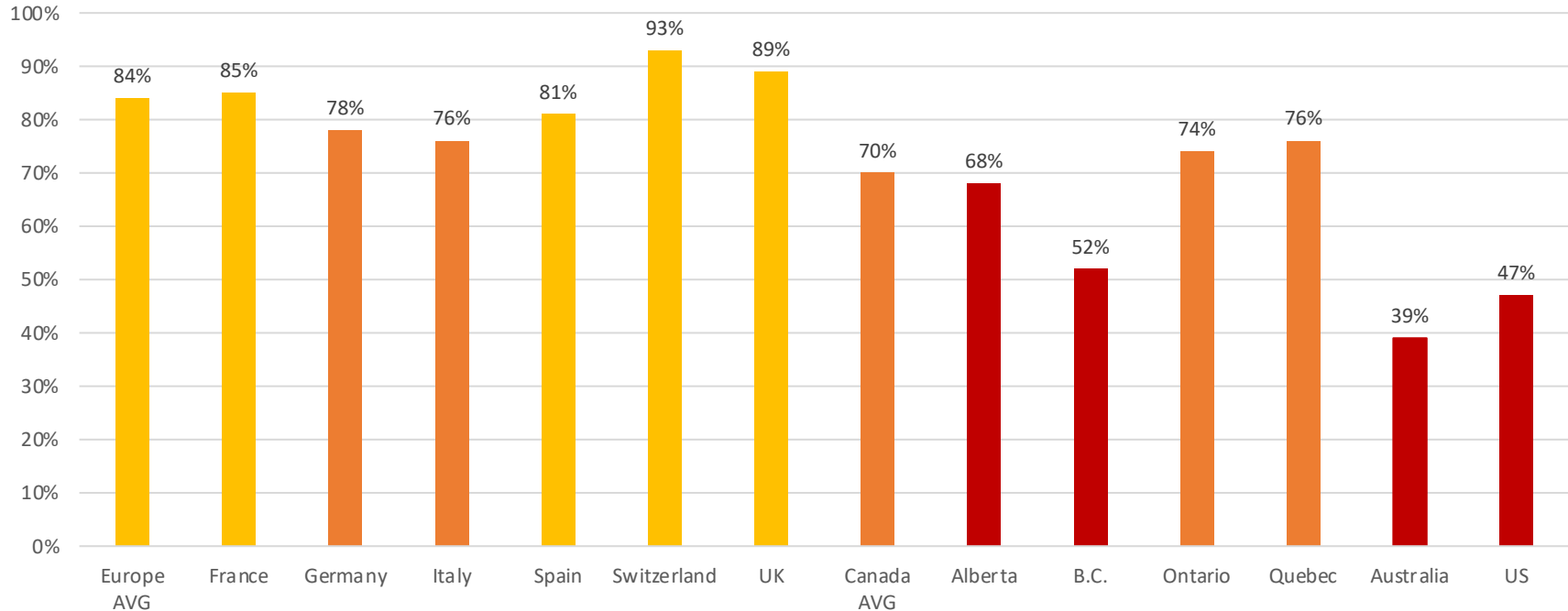
# Brand Name Recording in ADR Reports: Wide Variation

- 2018 Irish ADR reports for infliximab:  
**18% missing brand name**
- A 2018 review of EudraVigilance ADR reports for infliximab revealed that  
**35% contained no brand name.**
- A review of 2020 Canadian ADR reports for infliximab **are missing brand name 37% of the time.**
- 2019 UK BIOTRAC study: **only 38% of ADR Reports had an identifiable brand name.**



# Brand Name Recording by Physicians: ASBM Survey Data

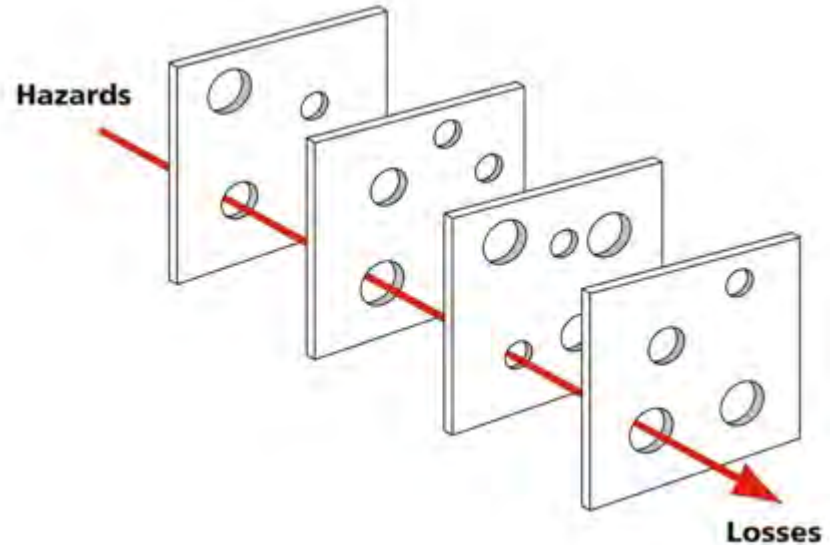
What % of Physicians Include Brand Name in ADR Reports?



Source: Australia, Europe, and US physician surveys (2016-2019) [www.safebiologics.org/surveys](http://www.safebiologics.org/surveys)

# Safety Science: High Reliability Systems

- High-reliability systems need multiple checks: airlines, healthcare, medication systems.
- The “Swiss cheese model” from industrial psychologist James Reasons is used worldwide to design high reliability safety systems.
- Each “slice” (“defense”) is a protection against hazardous conditions becoming an accident.





The WHO's INN Expert Group recognized these problems long ago...and proposed a solution.

THE "SWISS CHEESE" MODEL OF ACCIDENT CAUSATION, (Reason, 1990)<sup>12</sup>  
APPLIED TO ADVERSE EVENT REPORTING DATA<sup>4,6,8,9,11</sup>

