

# The Role of Distinguishable Biologic Nomenclature in 2021

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at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Consultation on  
International Nonproprietary Names

## When We Last Met in April...

72<sup>nd</sup> INN Consultation, April 2021

- ASBM was preparing a poster for DIA 2021
- Today we'd like to follow up and look at the poster, its findings, and how these are being used in discussions with regulators and others internationally.
- We will also preview some new data from a brand-new 2021 U.S. physician survey.

*Upcoming Poster: "A review of problems with pharmacovigilance programs and biologics"*

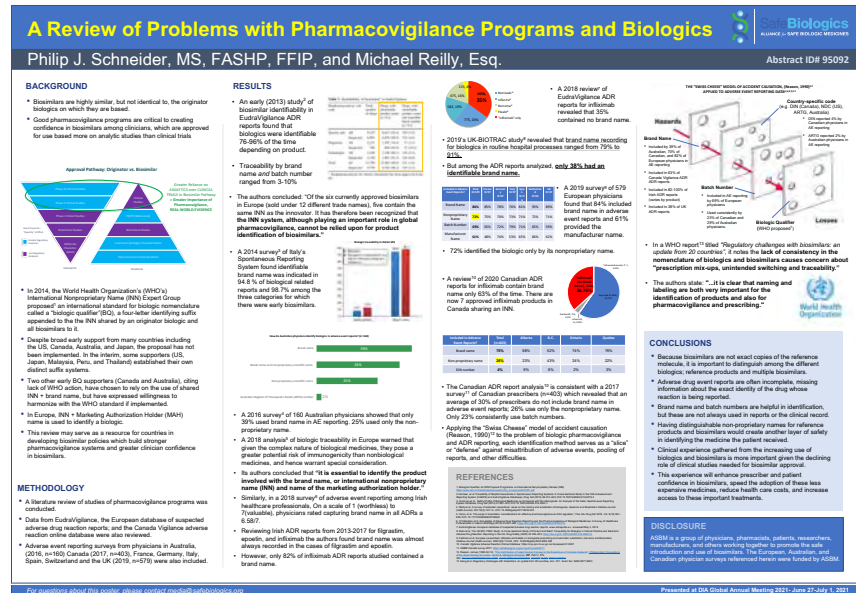
- ASBM will present a poster abstract at the Drug Information Association (DIA) Global Annual Meeting 2021, to be held virtually June 27-July 1, 2021.
- The poster will examine recent literature on the identifiability of biologics, with an emphasis on their identifiability in ADR reporting.



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# 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.

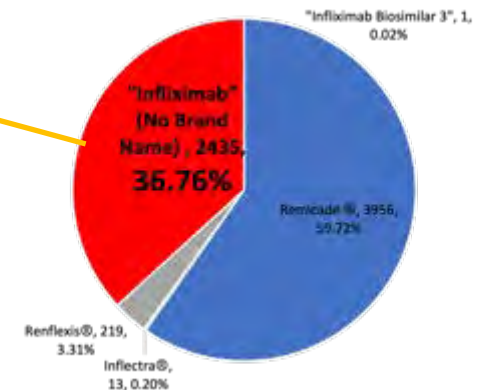
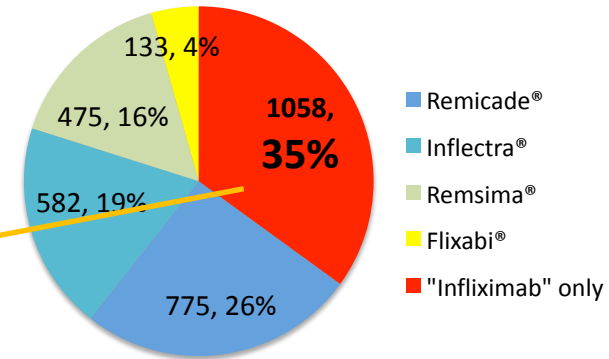


See a video walkthrough of the poster here..



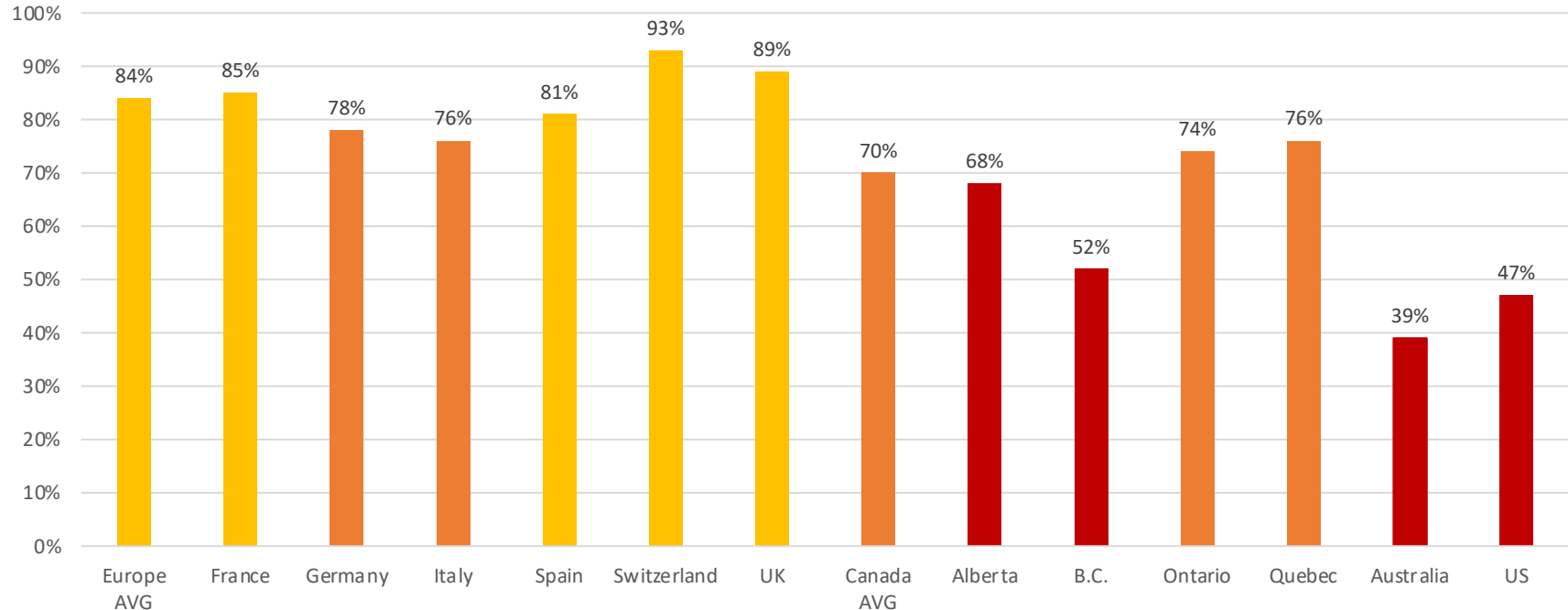
# Brand Name Recording in ADR Reports: Wide Variation

- 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)



**The report, titled “Regulatory challenges with biosimilars: an update from 20 countries” notes:**

**"...it is clear that naming and labeling are both very important for the identification of products and also for pharmacovigilance and prescribing."**

# Alone, Shared INNs Create Ambiguity: Infliximab

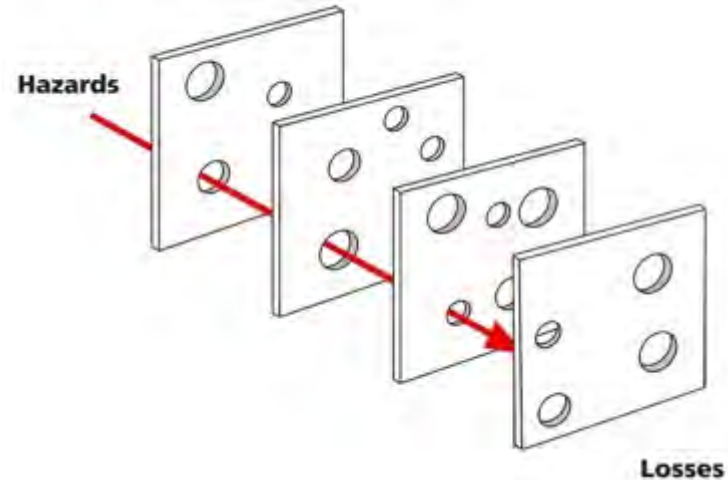
- For example, all 13 products on the right share the INN “infliximab”
- Brand/Trade Names are inconsistently recorded- *and also differ from country to country*.
- **This can become confusing and result in:**
  - **Misattribution of adverse events**
  - **Inadvertent or inappropriate substitution**
  - **Inaccurate patient records**
  - **Inability to do targeted recalls**
- Continued proliferation of biosimilars makes this a more pressing challenge- *one that the WHO is uniquely positioned to solve.*

Manufacturer	Trade Name(s)
Janssen	Remicade
Amgen	Avsola
BCD-055	Biocad
	Remsima/Inflectra/Flammegis/Ifixi
Celltrion/Hospira (Pfizer)	
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

# Among the Poster's Conclusions: An Additional “Layer of Defense” Needed.

- **Adverse drug event reports are often incomplete**, missing information about the exact identity of the drug whose reaction is being reported.
- Brand name and batch numbers are helpful in identification, but these are **not always used in reports or the clinical record.**
- **Having distinguishable non-proprietary names for reference products and biosimilars would create another layer of safety in identifying the medicine the patient received.**

THE “SWISS CHEESE” MODEL OF ACCIDENT CAUSATION, (Reason, 1990)<sup>12</sup>

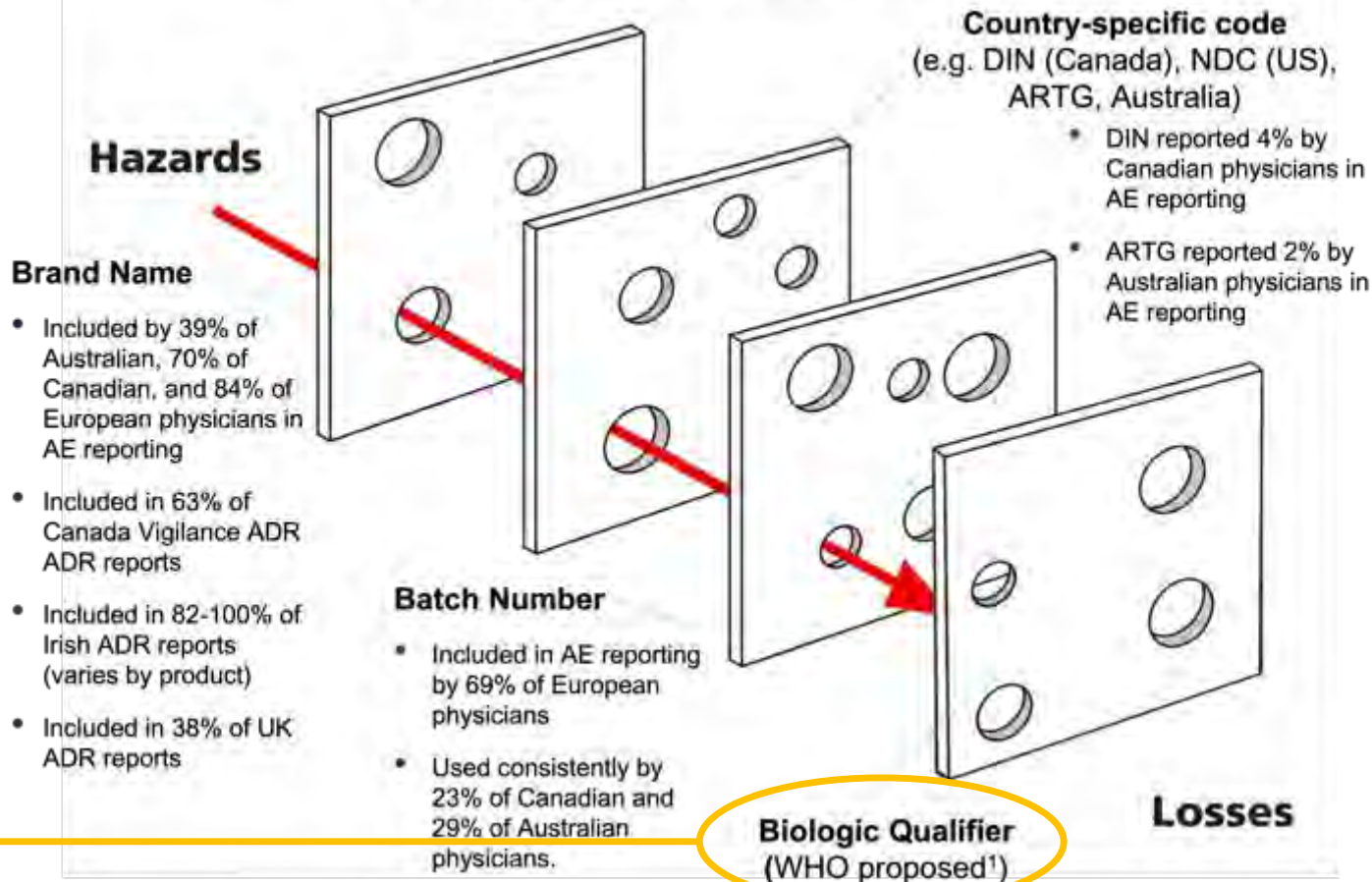






The INN Expert Group of course, recognized these problems long ago...and proposed a solution.

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>



**Objections to the use of distinguishing suffixes** included concerns that these would:

- 1) Imply inferiority**
- 2) Undermine physician confidence**
- 3) Hurt biosimilar uptake**

**The U.S. experience, however, has now definitively shown that this is not the case.**



# Preview: 2021 US Physician Survey

- 403 physicians
- Drawn from specialties in which biologics are routinely prescribed (e.g. dermatology, gastroenterology, nephrology, neurology, oncology, rheumatology, etc.)
- All prescribe biologics.

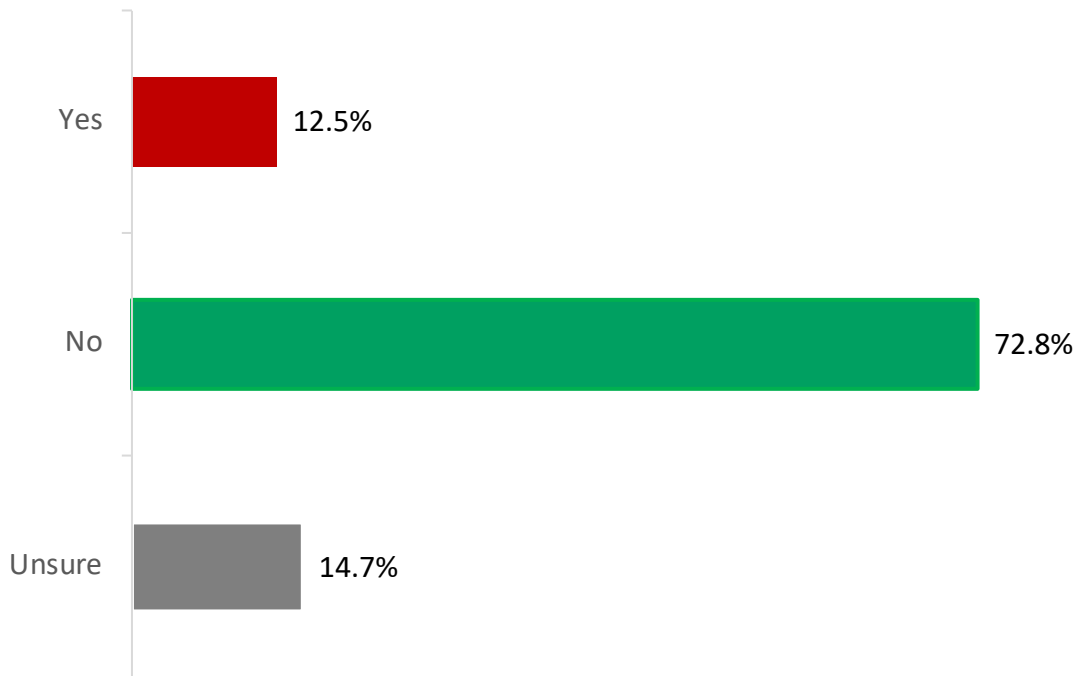
**This brand-new survey has not yet been published- you are the first group to see it.**



# 1) Inferiority: Suffixes Do Not Imply Inferiority to the Vast Majority of US Physicians.

- **73% do NOT think a suffix implies inferiority to its reference product.**
- 12.5% think YES it implies they are inferior; and 14.7 are unsure.
- It is important to remember that in the U.S., all new innovator biologics are also issued suffixes, even though older products have not been retroactively renamed.
- **Eventually, nearly all originator products will have suffixes, as will their biosimilars.**

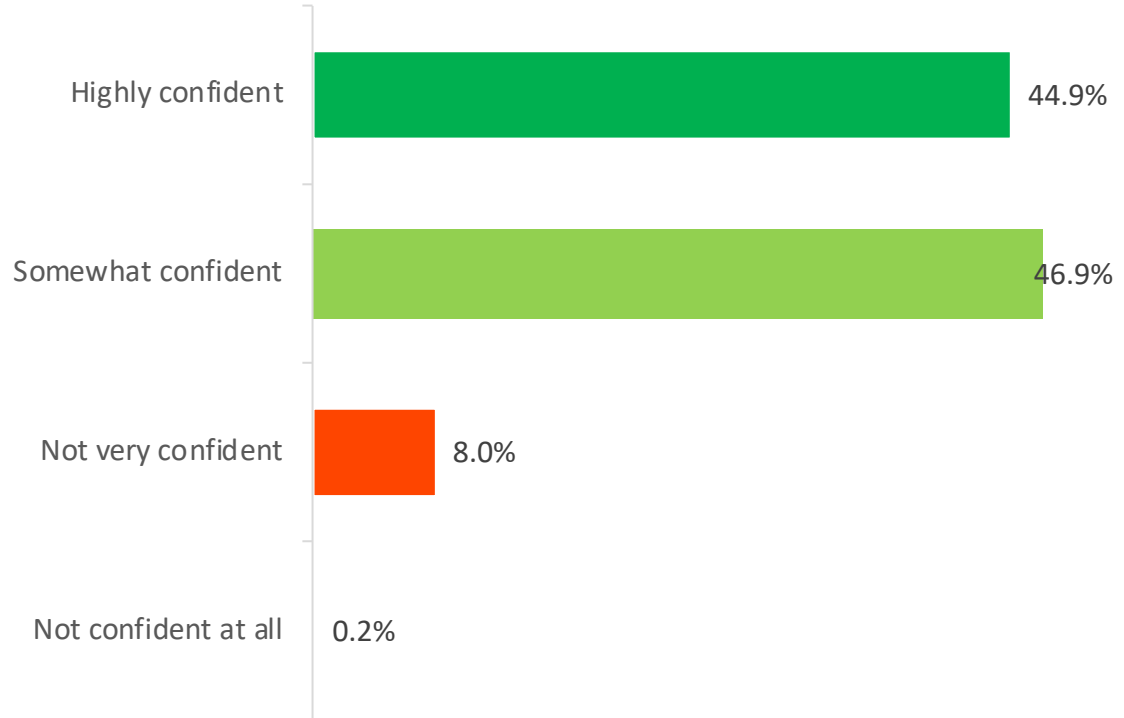
Q2. In your opinion, does the use of an identifying suffix imply that a biosimilar is inferior to its reference product in terms of safety or efficacy? (n=401)



## 2) Confidence: US Physicians Are Highly Confident in the Safety and Efficacy of Biosimilars.

- **91.8% somewhat or highly confident in safety and efficacy of biosimilars, with 45% (44.9) highly confident.**

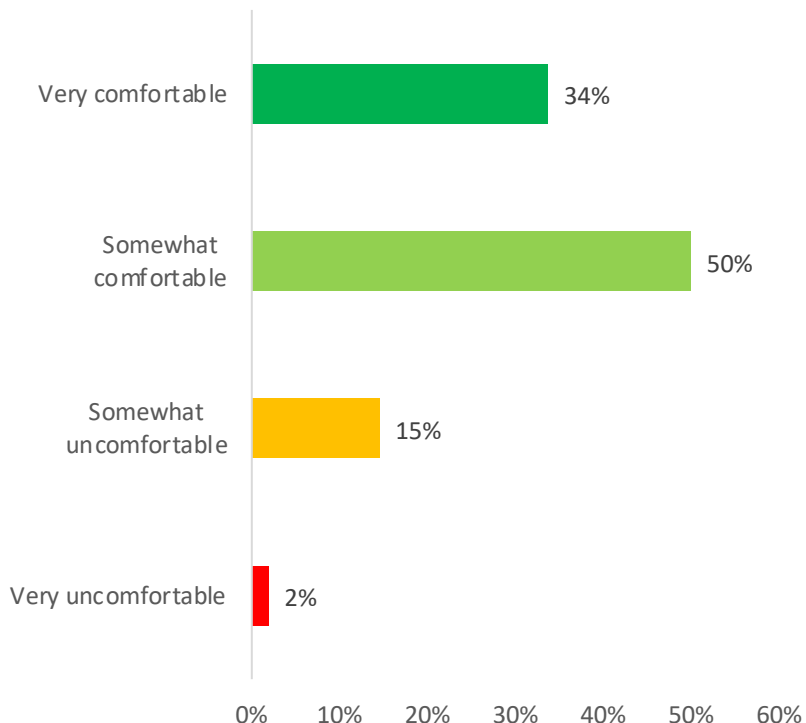
- Q1. How would you describe your personal confidence level in the safety and efficacy of biosimilars? (n=401)



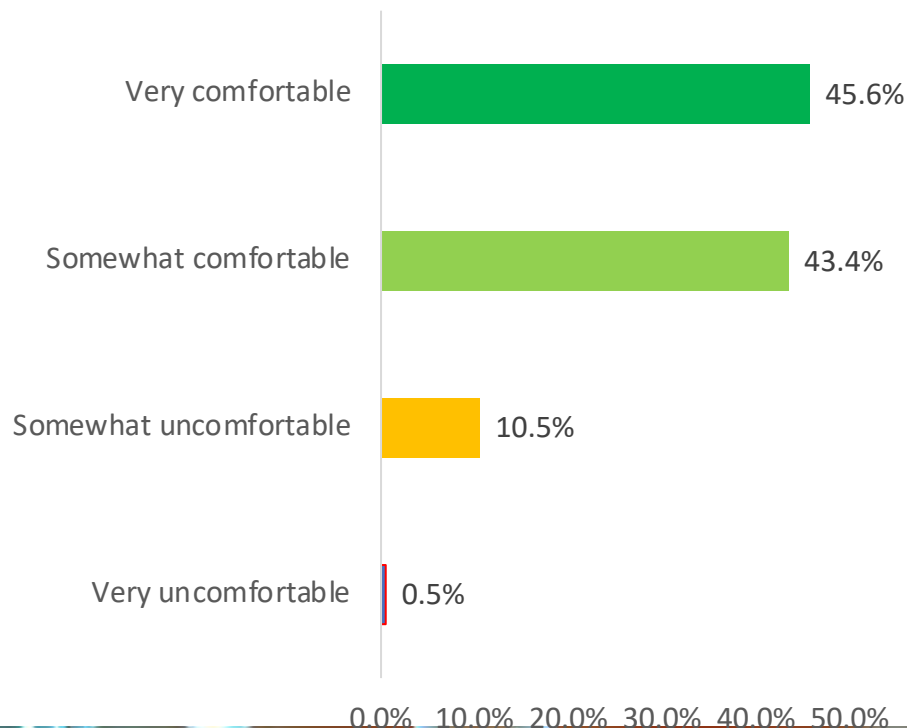


## 2) Confidence: US Physicians More Comfortable Prescribing Biosimilars to Naïve Patients than their European Counterparts...

EU Physician Survey, 2019, n= 579



US Physician Survey, 2021, n= 403

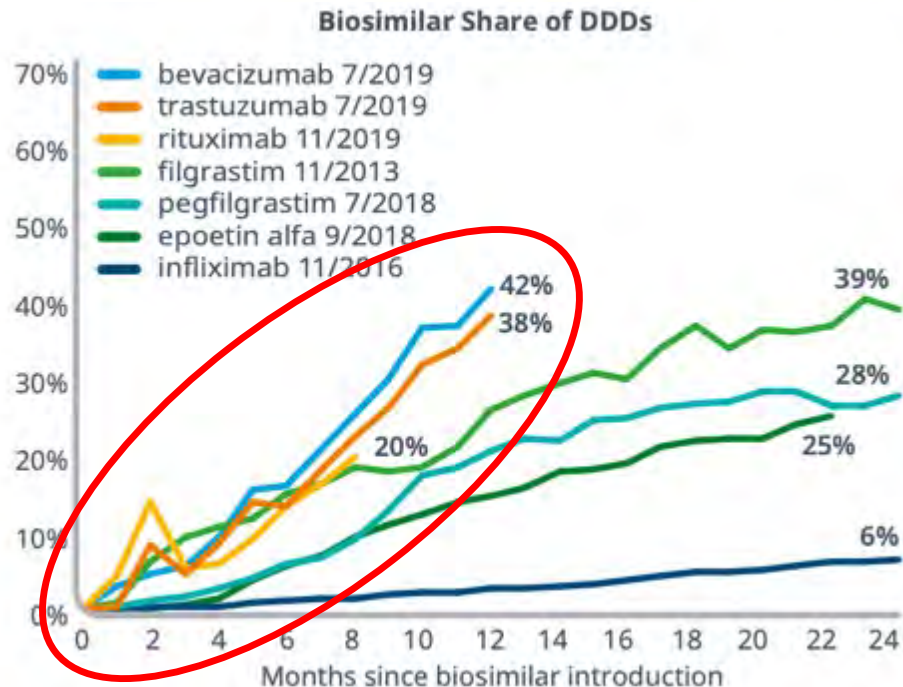


### 3) Uptake: Distinct Suffixes Have Not Held Back Biosimilars in the U.S.

- 30 Approved, 20 on the market.
- In the US, biosimilars have gained significant share in the majority of therapeutic areas in which they have been introduced:
- Filgrastim biosimilars have been on the market the longest at five years and have achieved an **80% share.**
- **Average 20% to 25% within the first year of launch**, with some projected to reach <50% within the first two years:
- Bevacizumab and trastuzumab biosimilars have approximately **40% share- these are expected to reach “European” levels of uptake 50-60% within 2 years.**
- Rituximab and infliximab have had the most limited adoption, with approximately **20% market share- although Rituximab is also on track to reach ~50% within 2 years.**

## Recent biosimilars have achieved high volume shares, projected to reach more than 50% within the first two years, varying by channel

*Newer U.S. biosimilars are achieving significant market share faster than earlier launches.*



Source: IQVIA MIDAS®, Jun 2020; IQVIA National Sales Weekly, Aug 2020

### 3) Uptake: US Biosimilar Uptake Rates Are Now Comparable to Those of Many European Countries. (20-80% range)

Total Biosimilar Volume: Denmark: 63%; UK: 45%; Germany 40%; France 34%, Belgium and Switzerland tied at 14%.

Filgrastim/Pegfilgrastim: 16 European countries had > 90% biosimilar utilization in 2018, Ireland was just 27%.

Anti-TNF biosimilars (adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab), Norway and Denmark had 81% and 96% biosimilar uptake, respectively, while every other country's utilization was less than 50% .



Variations are influenced by government involvement, reimbursement structures and tender procurement policies.

## ***Price- Not Nomenclature-Seems to Be the Predominant Factor in Increasing Biosimilar Uptake***

As in Europe, as more and more biosimilars launch in a given product class, competition drives prices downward, discounts increase, and biosimilar market share goes up:

- First U.S. filgrastim biosimilar launched with 15% discount over its reference product. Today, with increased competition, its discount has increased to 35% and it has now attained a majority market share (55%), with an 80% total market share for all filgrastim biosimilars.
- First U.S. rituximab biosimilar launched at a 10% discount over its reference product. A few months later the second launched at a larger, 24% discount to compete.
- As it becomes routine to have 3, 4, or 5 biosimilars approved for a reference product we expect this trend- and savings- to continue.

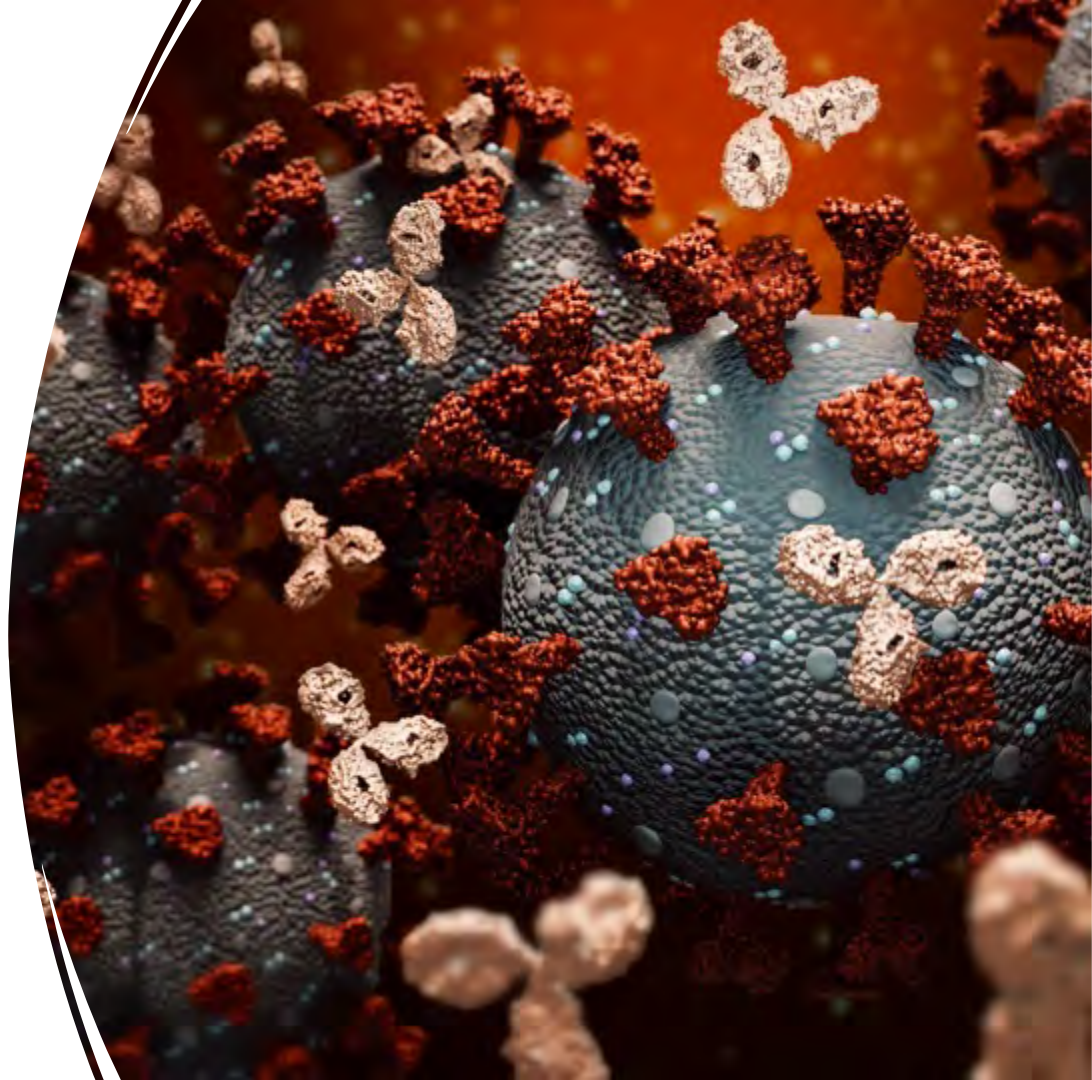




While much of our attention remains focused on COVID-19, we are beginning to return to normal and focusing on other policy areas- **including pharmacovigilance and the role of biologic nomenclature-**

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Increasingly, we have found renewed interest in this issue, and a desire for leadership...



# Malta Medicines Authority Biosimilars Seminar (Aug. 26)

- Daylong seminar
- **Invited by Malta Medicines Authority** to present on several important topics on biosimilars
- **Among these were the pharmacovigilance challenges posed by the advent and proliferation of biosimilars; physician reporting practices, the role of the WHO, and potential solutions.**



# World Drug Safety Congress Americas

Boston, MA, USA  
(Oct. 20-21)



WORLD  
**DRUGSAFETY**  
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**The Largest Drug Safety  
Congress Globally**  
**We're Back In-Person!**  
October 20-21, 2021  
The Westin Boston Waterfront, Boston, Massachusetts

## PANEL: Improving pharmacovigilance programs around the world

- How can reporting rates be improved?
- How can event reporting be harmonized globally to strengthen pharmacovigilance worldwide?
- How can the accuracy and completeness of information in event reports be improved?

# World Biosimilar Congress Europe 2021

Basel, Switzerland  
(Nov. 11)



- Will be presenting these data and our policy recommendations as a part of a Session on **“Real World Evidence and Pharmacovigilance”**



# Summary

- Even in advanced countries, reliance on Brand Name + INN does not ensure accurate product identification. **Distinct naming will act as an additional defense.**
- **The benefits of distinguishable naming** are clear: more accurate attribution of adverse events; improved pharmacovigilance overall, and greater manufacturer accountability for their products. *This is especially true for patients in countries without the resources for a robust PV system of their own.*
- Opponents of distinguishable naming were concerned that use of a suffix would imply inferiority to the originator product and result in low physician confidence. U.S. physician survey data shows this is not the case. In fact, confidence in the safety and efficacy of biosimilars, and comfort with switching, is higher among U.S. physicians than European physicians.
- Opponents also said distinct suffixes would hurt uptake. Yet U.S. uptake levels are approaching those seen in Europe, showing these fears to be unfounded.
- The WHO itself recognizes the lack of a global nomenclature standard remains an obstacle to increasing biosimilar uptake. Past and present supporters of the BQ remain willing to harmonize should the WHO make a voluntary standard available.
- **ASBM will continue to work with regulators globally to move a nomenclature policy forward (BQ or otherwise).**





**SafeBiologics**

ALLIANCE *for* SAFE BIOLOGIC MEDICINES

***Thank You For Your Attention***