

# Breakthrough Designation: The First Two Years

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# History of Legislation

- Nov, 2011 FOCR/Brookings Annual Conference on Clinical Cancer Research
  - Discussed expedited pathway for new cancer drugs with unprecedented activity
- Senate introduction March 2012: “Advancing Breakthrough Therapies for Patients Act”; (Bennett, Hatch, Burr)
- House introduction May 2012: “Breakthrough Therapies Act”; (DeGette, Bilray)
- FDASIA passed July 9, 2012
- 1<sup>st</sup> designation given in Jan 2013

# Activity Since Enactment (dynamic)

	CDER	CBER
• Requests	206	37
• Granted	62	7
• Denied	101	27
• Withdrawn	2	0
• Rescinded	0	0

# 2013: 3 Approvals

- Guzyva: CLL
- Imbruvica: Mantle Cell Lymphoma
- Solvaldi: Chronic Hepatitis C

# 2014: 9 Approvals to Date—4/9 for Non-oncologic Indications

- Kalydeco, supplement: Cystic Fibrosis
- Arzerra, supplement: CLL
- Zykadia: NSCLC, alk+
- Zydelig: CLL
- Imbruvica, supplement: CLL
- Promacta, supplement: aplastic anemia
- Keytruda: metastatic melanoma
- Ofev: Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
- Esbriet: Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

# FDA Initial Activities

- Set up tracking mechanism and process for review of requests
- Developed template for review and presentation
- Set up procedure for CDER Medical Policy Council review and recommendation
- Response letter templates

# Medical Policy Council Activities

- Nine policy/procedure meetings
- Three quarterly progress updates from review offices
- Fifty-one face-to-face discussions for 72 requests
- Ninety-two email reviews

# Evaluation of Program

- Have conducted initial evaluation of 1<sup>st</sup> 2 years of the program (by Office of Strategic Programs, CDER)
- Characteristics of program/reactions and opinions of staff
- Have not polled industry
- Plan further evaluation

# Role of MPC

- 93% agreement with Division recommendations
- 47/50 instances, division recommended granting and MPC concurred
- 79/87 instances, division recommended to deny and MPC concurred
- In 2 cases, division said deny and MPC recommended granting; were granted
- In 6 cases, division said grant and MPC recommended denial; all ultimately denied

# What is the Bar?

- Biggest factor seems to be magnitude of treatment effect
- In the clinical data submitted, successful requests show, in general, a reduction in the risk (e.g. of progression) of over 50%
- Of course, when the endpoint is survival, lesser improvements are still impressive
- Because of the wide range of conditions and endpoints studied, precise “bar” difficult
- In general, improvements of 10% over comparator do not seem to be BT territory

# Is the Bar Consistent?

- Hard to compare across different indications
- We looked across Offices/Divisions for simple rates: no clear pattern
- ODE 3 has the highest percentage of grants but does not have a huge amount of requests
- MPC process intended to maintain consistency
- We will continue to evaluate this issue

# Some characteristics of granted and denied BTDRs from FDA Evaluation

- On average, granted BTDRs tended to have **higher enrollment**, submit **more and larger phase trials**, and have a **genetic/targeted** component to their indications compared to denied BTDRs
- There is not much difference between BTDRs that were granted or denied in terms of rare/orphan status or randomized trials submitted

Variable	Grants (Means/%)	Denials (Means/%)
Number of Grants/Denials	50	86
Trial Enrollment <sup>1</sup>	184.3 (median 88)	114.4 (median 51)
Trial Count <sup>2</sup>	1.52	1.23
Maximum Trial Phase	1.94	1.73
Randomized/Blinded <sup>3</sup>	56%/32%	56%/46%
Available Therapy	64%	49%
Rare and/or Orphan	60%	55%
Genetic/Targeted	38%	20%

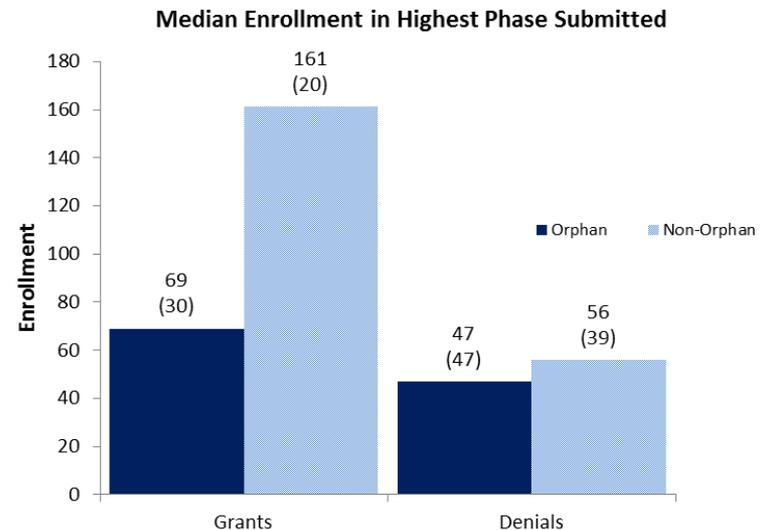
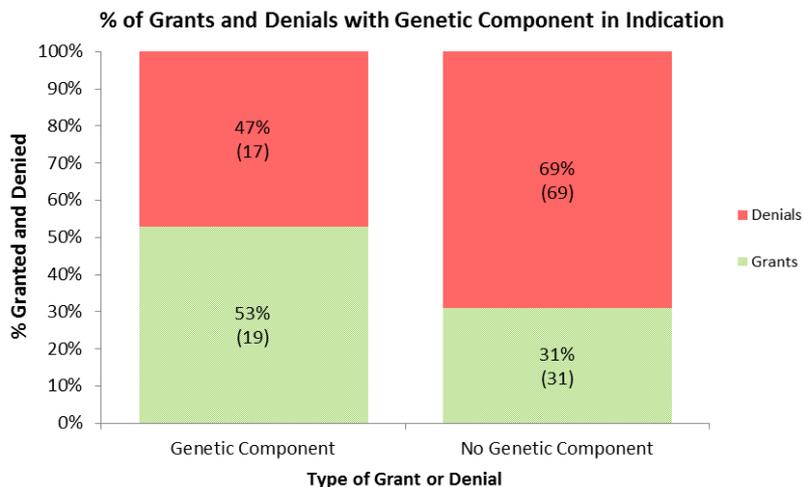
<sup>1</sup>“Trial enrollment” indicates the average enrollment of all trials submitted as evidence per BTDR

<sup>2</sup>“Trial count” indicates the average number of trials submitted as evidence per BTDR

<sup>3</sup>If more than one trial supported an BTDR, and one of those trials was randomized, the BTDR was flagged as “randomized”

# Therapies with a genetic component<sup>1</sup> in their indication were more likely than those without to be granted BT status but orphan and/or rare status<sup>2</sup> did not make a difference

- While orphan and/or rare status and inclusion of a genetic component are not related to BTDR evidence submitted, they may reflect a future designation trend
- 38% of grants and 20% of denials had genetic components but 53% of therapies with a genetic component to their indication were granted compared to 31% of therapies without these components
- 60% of grants and 55% of denials had rare and/or orphan status but non-orphan/rare grants and denials had higher median trial enrollments (133% and 19%) than orphan/rare grants and denials

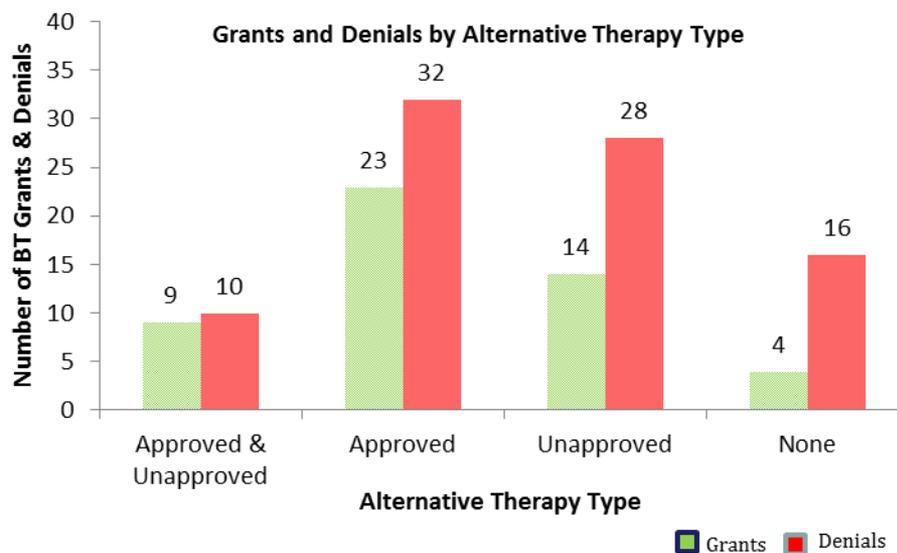


<sup>1</sup>The inclusion of a genetic component in the indication is used as a proxy for targeted therapy

<sup>2</sup>Grants and denials were categorized as orphan and/or rare status if they had either status in DAARTS at the time of data collection

# Grants were more likely than denials to have some form of alternative therapy

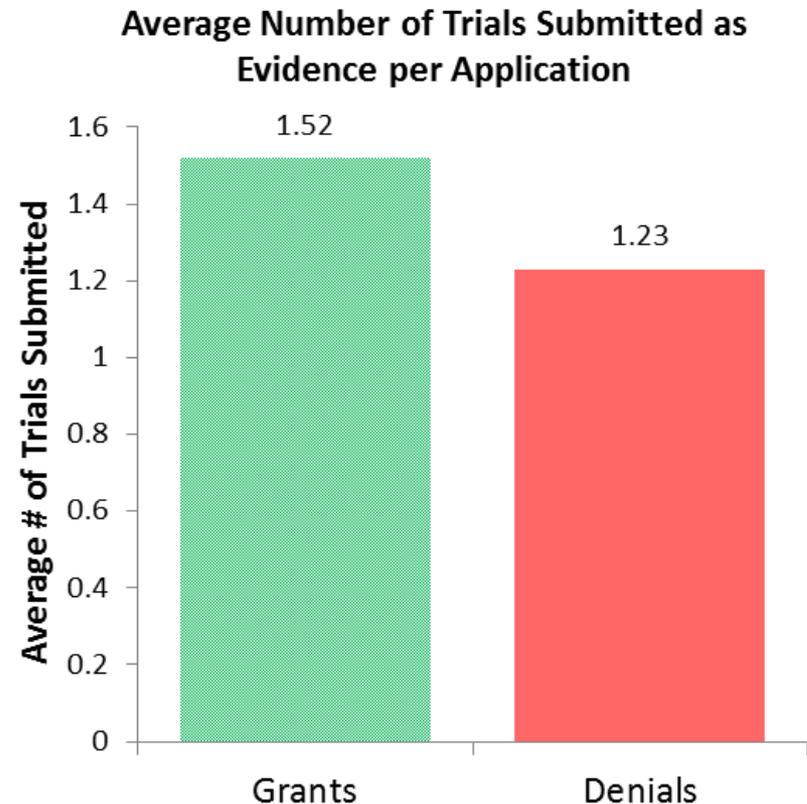
- Result is surprising given that a lack of alternative therapies would seem to indicate an advantage
- Expedited programs guidance specifies that only “approved” therapies be considered, but division briefing packets to the MPC mentioned “unapproved”<sup>1</sup> therapies for 44% of grants and 46% of denials
- There is no way of knowing if unapproved therapies factored into BT decisions
- 64% of grants and 49% of denials had approved alternative therapies
- 8% of grants and 19% of denials had no alternative therapies



<sup>1</sup>“Unapproved” therapy defined as off-label use (not considered SOC) or drugs in pipeline for same indication; “Unapproved” and “approved” categorizations were verified by medical officers

# Grants submitted evidence from more trials than denials

- On average, grants submitted evidence from 24% more trials than denials, indicating that more evidence may inspire confidence
- The maximum number of relevant trials submitted with a BTDR was 5
- 4 denials submitted no trial data<sup>1</sup> and 3 BTDRs (2 grants, 1 denial) submitted only expanded access data<sup>2</sup>



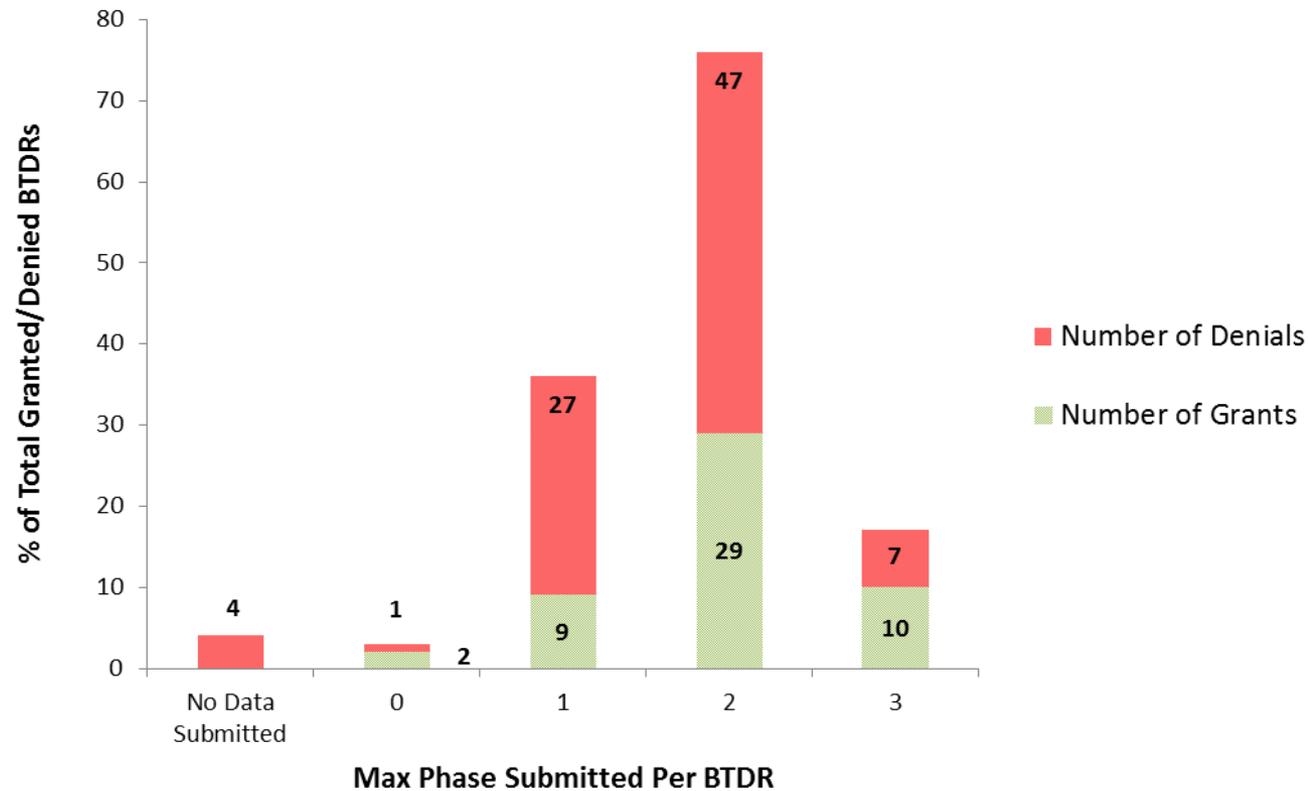
<sup>1</sup>BTDRs submitting no trial data were coded as having submitted 0 trials

<sup>2</sup>BTDRs submitting only expanded access data were coded as having submitted 1 trial

# Over half of all grants and denials submitted a maximum trial phase of II

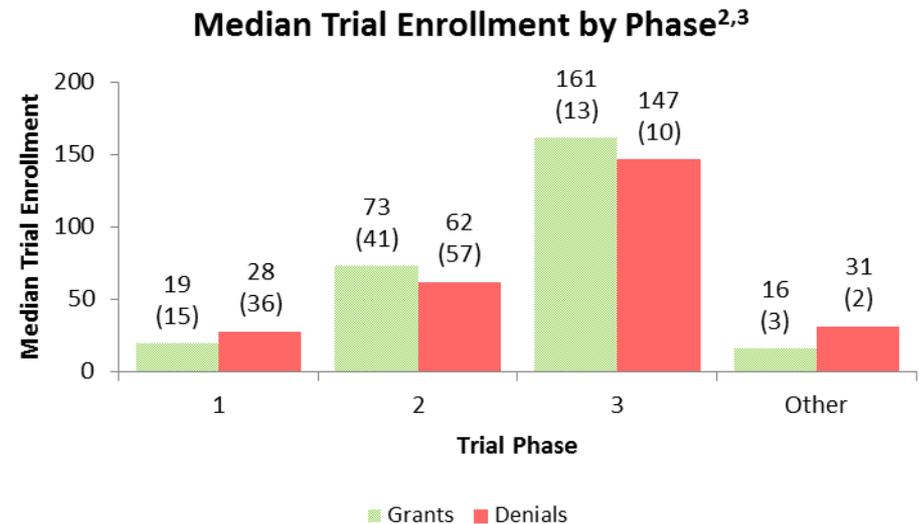
## Grants and Denials by Max Phase

- 63% of denials submitted trial data of phase II or higher
- 78% of grants submitted trial data of phase II or higher
- Data suggests that most sponsors are adhering to the expedited programs guidance and submitting at phase II or earlier



# Median trial enrollment for grants was slightly higher than denials in phases II and III

- Median<sup>1</sup> enrollment for grants was 18% and 10% higher than denials for phase II and III trials respectively, which may indicate that higher trial enrollment inspires more confidence
- Median enrollment for grants was 32% less than denials for phase I trials, but many BTDRs submitted higher phase data as well, relegating many phase I trials to a supporting role

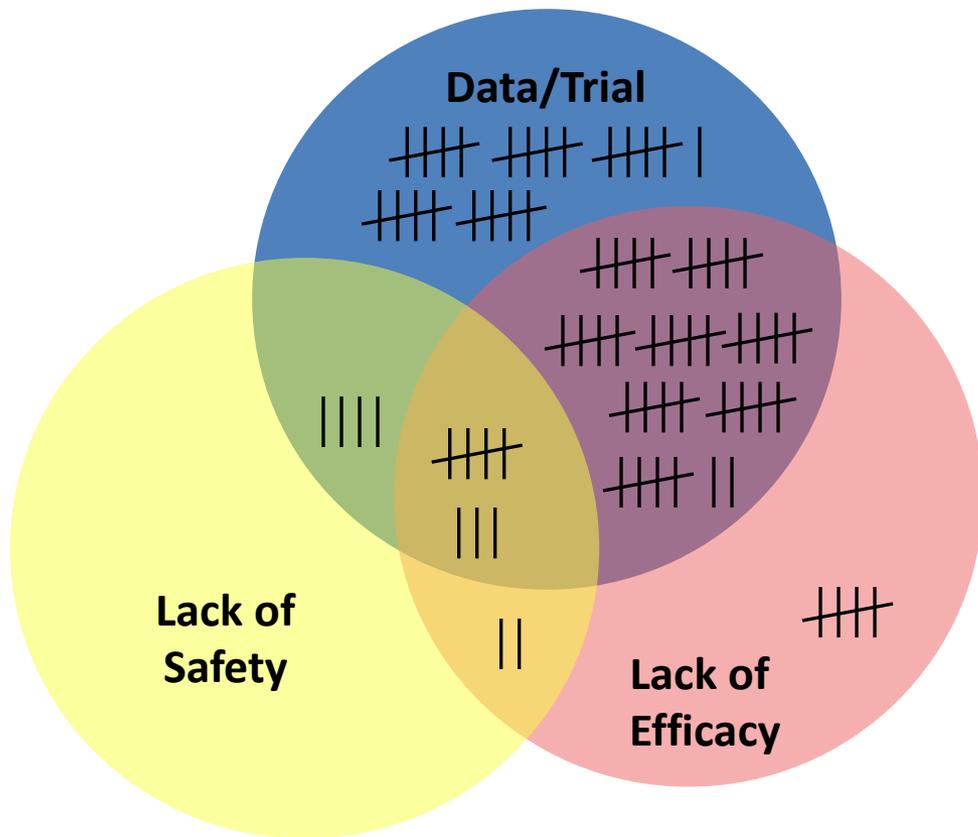


<sup>1</sup> Median enrollment data is presented to account for the influence of a few large trials in each phase that positively skews the overall data

<sup>2</sup> Enrollment numbers include total enrollment for all trials submitted as evidence (i.e. gave a treatment effect) specific to BTDR indication

<sup>3</sup> "Other" represents BTDRs that submitted expanded access data

# Most denials cited trial design and trial data issues<sup>1</sup>



Denials	N=86
Reasons for Denial	
Lack of efficacy	57 (66%)
Lack of safety	14 (16%)
All data/trial problems	80 (92%)
No clinical data	5 (6%)
Trial design flaws	22 (43%)
Invalid endpoint	25 (29%)
Sample size	31 (36%)
Post hoc analysis	13 (15%)
Trial results too preliminary	21 (24%)
Treatment effects not isolated	10 (12%)
Concomitant treatments	3 (3%)
Misc/other	17 (20%)

<sup>1</sup>Many denials cited multiple reasons for denial; reasons gathered from denial letters and MO QCs ; "Condition not serious" was only cited as a reason for denial for two drugs and was not included in this analysis

# BT Designation ≠ Approval: Serelaxin

- Serelaxin (Novartis): an intravenous drug being studied for heart failure
- Single Phase 3 trial—difficulties with primary EPs (symptoms) but possible improvement in mortality
- BT designation awarded June 2013
- March 2014: Cardiorenal AC votes 11:0 that more data needed
- May 2014: FDA requests data from ongoing outcomes trial

# Benefits of Designation

- Focused attention on the development program by FDA staff
- Medical Policy Council input into regulatory approach
- Manufacturing: early consultation with the quality regulators; use of clinically relevant specifications and benefit/risk analysis
- Point of view of drug sponsors will be obtained

# What about Effect on FDA/CDER Workload

- CDER currently has over 600 vacancies
- Clearly BT designation program has associated workload, but overall impact hard to measure
- Evaluation gave some indication of impact on reviewers
- As a result of the evaluation, we are undertaking to streamline some parts of the process, although the MPC is reluctant to cease oversight of certain actions, at the moment

# Summary

- Response to Breakthrough Therapy Designation Program has exceeded expectations
- A number of BT designated drugs have undoubtedly reached patients sooner as a result
- No letup in applications, so expect a robust program going forward
- Impact of FDA resources still being evaluated