

## IN their words



**“Why can’t we have conditional approval for a new drug or device or even a diagnostic test, and then monitor that very carefully?”** Scripps Clinic’s Eric Topol lends his voice to the calls for more extensive use of the conditional approval pathway (*Medscape*

Today, 20 August 2012)

**“Frankly, it is rare for a biotechnology company to be operating this long without product to sell.... The next 12 months will be, in our view, the most important in Geron’s history.”** A member of Helix

Investment Management commenting on Geron’s two decades in business. (*Seeking Alpha*, 16 August 2012)

**“This is the price of bringing some of this innovation to these disease states. One [insurer] told us this is the cost of doing business.”** Douglas Paul, vice president at Medical Marketing Economics in Oxford, Mississippi, commenting on the \$440,000 price tag on Alexion’s drug Solaris. (*Forbes*, 5 September 2012)

**“I’d like to stress that where there are unmet medical needs, the public has told us they are willing to accept greater risks. The cancer**

**community in particular says we haven’t used accelerated approvals enough.”** CDER Director Janet Woodcock responds accusing the US Food and Drug Administration of rushing to judgment on some recent drug approvals. (*Wall Street Journal*, 4 September 2012)

**“It’s Google Maps,”** said Eric Lander, president of the Cambridge, Massachusetts’s Broad Institute of the recently released ENCODE project. In contrast, the Human Genome Project **“was like getting a picture of Earth from space. It doesn’t tell you where the roads are, it doesn’t tell you what traffic is like at what time of the day, it doesn’t tell you where the good restaurants are, or the hospitals or the cities or the rivers.”** (*The New York Times*, 5 September 2012)

## Around the world in a month



### SWEDEN

The government will invest SEK2.1 billion (\$323.4 million) in life sciences in 2013–2016, including SEK650 million (\$98.2 million) over the time period into the Sweden Science for Life Laboratory (SciLifeLab). The joint venture was founded in 2010 by Uppsala University, Stockholm University, the Karolinska Institutet and the Royal Institute of Technology. The remaining SEK1.5 billion (\$225 million) will be directed to investments in drug discovery, clinical research, antibiotic-resistance research, health in aging and patient registries.



### MOZAMBIQUE AND CHINA

The African nation is seeking China’s help to produce genetically modified cotton. Representatives of the Mozambique Cotton Institute and the Institute of Agricultural Research of Mozambique are due to travel to China to finalize negotiations.



### PERU

Certificates to protect indigenous knowledge related to more than 120 Amazonian plants were granted to the communities of Bora and Ocaina. The certificates relate to medical, food and cosmetic uses of some well-known plants such as cocona (*Solanum sessiliflorum*).



### AUSTRALIA AND INDIA

The Queensland University of Technology in Australia and India’s Department of Biotechnology will jointly develop strains of iron-rich bananas to help prevent iron-deficiency anemia, a leading cause of maternal death during childbirth.

