approval. "The health care system has limited resources, and this money is better spent elsewhere, namely in allowing the system to pay for more novel drugs." Celltrion won Korean approval for a biosimilar version of infliximab last year under the brand name Remsima. No such follow-on biologics have yet been cleared by the FDA.

Amgen to buy Onyx

What better way to restock a flagging product pipeline than with a little retail therapy? On 25 August, Amgen, the world's largest biotechnology company, struck a deal to buy the cancer drug specialist Onyx Pharmaceuticals. The $10.4 billion transaction gives the California biotech giant an expected blockbuster in Kyprolis (carfilzomib), a proteasome-blocking agent approved by the FDA last year for the treatment of multiple myeloma. Additionally, Amgen picks up co-marketing rights to the liver and kidney cancer drug Nexavar (sorafenib), royalties on the colon cancer drug Stivarga (regorafenib) and several unapproved agents to add to its growing oncology portfolio. "All of [Amgen's] products are aging, so it's really important that they move into more innovative areas, and that's what Onyx will do for them," says Karen Andersen, a biotech analyst at Morningstar, an investment research firm headquartered in Chicago.

Microbe tracker

Infectious disease physicians in the US could soon choose from not one, but two mass spectrometry machines for detecting disease-causing microbes. On 21 August, the FDA approved the VITEK MS system from France's bioMérieux, which can peg the genus and species of 193 different bacteria and yeast cultured from tissue, blood, stool and urine samples within minutes with around 90% accuracy. Compared to less automated biochemical and genetic analyses, "it can save a whole day," says Jenna Rychert, a clinical microbiologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, who tested the device. At press time, Massachusetts-based Bruker Corporation was awaiting a regulatory decision regarding the company's MALDI Biotyper. Both the VITEK MS and MALDI Biotyper—which have been available in Europe since 2011 and 2009, respectively—use lasers to break down infectious agents into molecular signatures.

PEOPLE

Stem cell senator

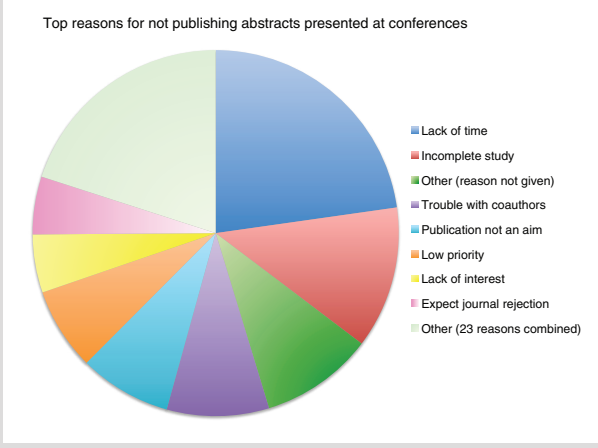
Elena Cattaneo now has a second job—for life. Cattaneo (pictured), who heads the Laboratory for Stem Cell Biology and Pharmacology of Neurodegenerative Diseases at the University of Milan, joined the Italian Senate last month as one of only six current permanent members. The Huntington's disease researcher, who turns 51 this month, is only the third woman and the youngest person ever appointed to the post. "It's a great opportunity for me to speak up on behalf of the scientific community and try to inform politicians on scientific issues," Cattaneo told *Nature Medicine*. An outspoken advocate in favor of embryonic stem cell research and the use of animals in the life sciences, Cattaneo was also elected to the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Italy's prestigious science academy, in July.

Mattia Sincinelli, Liligutt Studio

Quality controller

Richard Kronick has been tapped to lead the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the $400 million division of the US Department of Human Health and Services (HHS) that evaluates the effectiveness of medical interventions. Kronick replaced outgoing director Carolyn Clancy in late August. "He's got a deep knowledge of health policy with experience in research, teaching and government," says Kronick's frequent collaborator Todd Gilmer, a health economist at the University of California–San Diego (UCSD). Kronick, a one-time senior healthcare policy advisor in former President Bill Clinton's administration, had been on leave from UCSD since 2010 to work in the HHS's Office of Health Policy, where he helped implement the first stages of Obama's new healthcare reform law.

Many scientists lack time and interest in publishing results



Between writing grants, teaching courses, supervising students and all the obligations of running a laboratory, science can make for a time-consuming career. And without enough hours in the day to get everything done, 'lack of time' appears to be the number 1 reason why biomedical researchers who present their abstracts at conferences don't subsequently publish those studies in peer-reviewed journals. Roberta Scherer and Cesar Ugarte-Gil from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore systematically reviewed 24 studies that asked the authors of conference abstracts for reasons for failing to pursue a journal publication. Besides insufficient time, other commonly stated rationales included low priority, publication not an aim and lack of interest. "We have to make publishing our studies a priority," says Ian Tannock, a cancer researcher at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto who led one of the studies included in the review. Scherer presented her group's findings at last month's International Congress on Peer Review and Biomedical Publication in Chicago.

Correction

In the September 2013 news story "Flurry of deal-making surrounds new autoimmunity target" (*Nat. Med.* **19**, 1078, 2013), Ling Zhuang's affiliation and gender were misidentified. She works at GBI Research, not GlobalData. The error has been corrected in the HTML and PDF versions of the article.