FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cancer Drugs Now Account for 27% of all New Drug Approvals in the U.S., According to Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development

BOSTON – Sept. 3, 2019 – Cancer drugs currently account for 27% of all new drug approvals in the United States since 2010, a dramatic increase from the 4% share of the 1980s, a newly completed analysis from the Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development shows.

From 1980 through 2018, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a total of 126 cancer drugs to treat solid and hematologic tumors.

"New approaches to development helped to drive the surge in new oncology products, including improvements in clinical trial design, novel drug formats, and a focus on new and validated targets," said Joseph A. DiMasi, research associate professor and director of economic analysis and at Tufts CSDD, who conducted the analysis. "Those efforts appear to have paid off, as cancer patients today have many more effective treatment options."

He noted that pressure for still more oncology drugs is likely to continue to address currently untreatable or inadequately treated cancers.

"Developers will be challenged to control development costs, particularly those tied to recruiting sufficient numbers of patients for clinical trials involving rare cancers, and manage payer pressure to control drug prices and contain pharmaceutical spending in the U.S.," DiMasi said.

The analysis, summarized in the September/October *Tufts CSDD Impact Report*, released today, also found that:

- Clinical development time for cancer drug approvals during 1999-18 was 9% longer compared to non-cancer drugs.
- Regulatory approval phase time for cancer approvals during 1999-18 was 48% shorter on average vs. non-cancer approvals.
- Total clinical development and approval phase times during 1999-18 was 17% longer on average for hematologic drugs (8.8 years) compared to drugs for solid tumors (7.5 years).
- Substantially higher percentages of new cancer drug approvals received priority ratings from the FDA and had orphan drug status during 1999-18, compared to new non-cancer drug approvals.

ABOUT THE TUFTS CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DRUG DEVELOPMENT

The Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development (http://csdd.tufts.edu) at Tufts University, based in Boston, data-driven analysis and strategic insight to help drug developers, regulators, and policy-makers improve the quality and efficiency of pharmaceutical R&D. Tufts CSDD also offers professional development courses and hosts workshops and public forums on a wide range of drug development issues and publishes Tufts CSDD Impact Reports, a bi-monthly newsletter providing analysis and insight into critical drug development issues.

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