

## Orphan Drug Market -Past, Present & Future



**Dimitrina Dimitrova**Master in Bioentrepreneurship
Karolinska Institutet

dimitrina.chukova@stud.ki.se dimitrina-dimitrova@outlook.com

### **Understanding Orphan and Rare Diseases**

#### **Rare Disease**

US <200,000 people nationwide.1

EU <5 in 10,000 people in the population.<sup>2</sup>

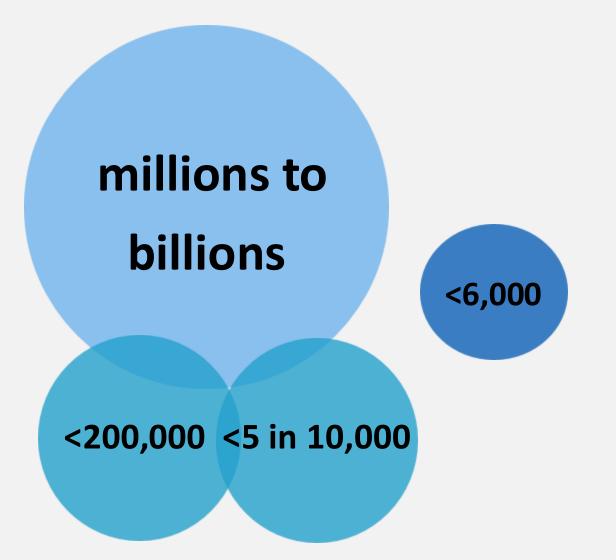
#### **Orphan Drug**

A medicine developed specifically to treat a rare disease, granted special incentives to encourage development.<sup>1 2</sup>

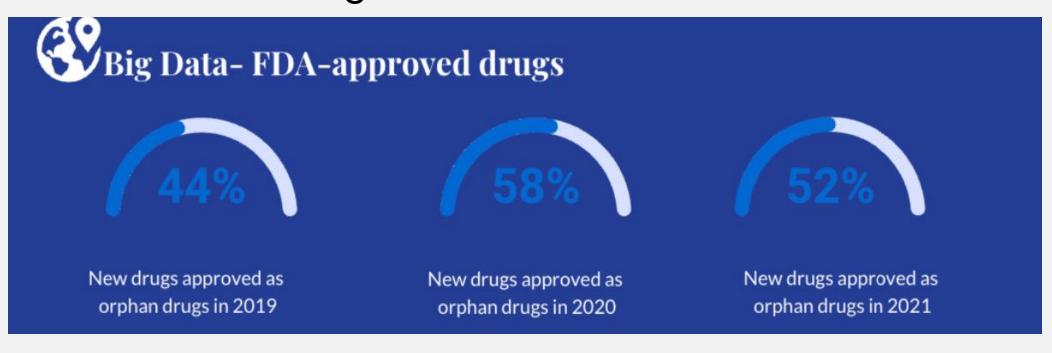
#### **Ultra-Orphan Drug**

US fewer than 6,000 patients.

UK <1 in 50,000 people in the UK.3



Addressing severe unmet medical needs.



<sup>1.</sup> FDA – Orphan Drug Designation: Frequently Asked Questions, 2024

<sup>2.</sup>EMA - Orphan designation: Overview, 2024

<sup>3.</sup>NICE - Highly Specialized Technologies guidance for ultra-orphan drugs, 2017

<sup>4.</sup>Orphan Pharma Report, Dimitrina Dimitrova

# Orphan Market Size





60% US<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1.</sup> EvaluatePharma. World Preview 2024, Outlook to 2030. 2024.

<sup>2.</sup> Grand View Research. Global Pharmaceutical Market Report 2025–2030. 2025.

# Investing in Small Patient Populations Orphan Incentives





## Reaching Patients Sooner

Time to market ~5 yrs (vs. 10–12)
Patient & societal support speeds
access<sup>1</sup>.



# Market **Exclusivity**

Long market exclusivity (7–10 years US/EU)

Strong payer acceptance for severe disease<sup>2</sup>.



# Additional FDA Support

Dedicated Orphan Products Unit FastTrack, Priority Review, waived fees<sup>3</sup>.



#### **Legislative Wins**

Orphan Drug Act (1983)

2025 Bill expanded protections: pricing exemptions from Medicare negotiations providers<sup>4</sup>.

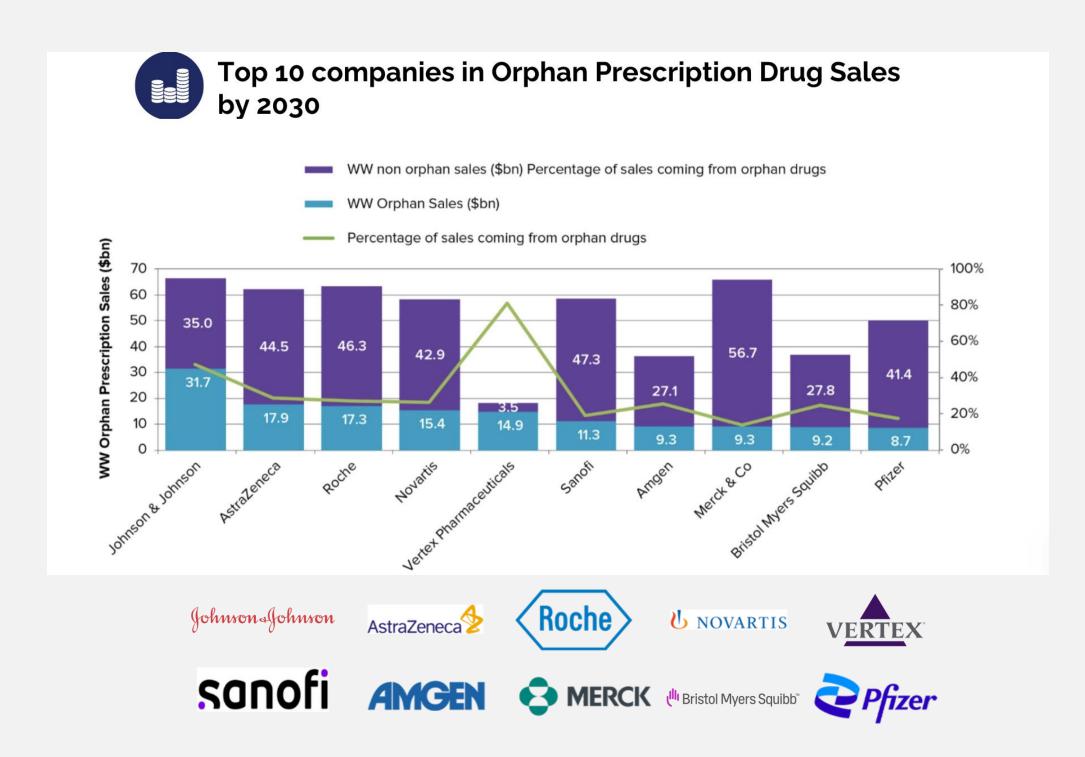
<sup>1.</sup> EvaluatePharma. World Preview 2024, Outlook to 2030. 2024.

<sup>2.</sup>FDA & EMA – Orphan designation: Overview, 2024.

<sup>3.</sup>FDA – Orphan designation: Overview, 2024.

<sup>4.</sup>Jones Day. Congress Expands Orphan Drug Exemptions from Medicare Price Negotiations. July 2025.

# Big Orphan Pharma



Global Pharma
Revenue<sup>1</sup>
>50%

Sales<sup>2</sup>
20%

Premium
Pricing<sup>3</sup>
17x

<sup>1.</sup> FDA – Orphan Pharma Report, 2025

<sup>2.</sup>EMA - Orphan designation: Overview, 2024

<sup>3.</sup>IQVIA Institute. Global Trends in Orphan Drug Pricing. 2022.

#### HealthCap Active Swedish Investor in Orphan Companies



"Exclusivity is more than IP—it's the window that gives small companies the breathing space to bring something truly meaningful to market." -Partner, HealthCap

Wilson's disease (ultra-rare) ~10,000–30,000 patients worldwide In 6 years - USD 855 million **Wilson Therapeutics** acquisition<sup>2</sup>

~\$86-123M



HealthCap's total orphan investments (estimates)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1.</sup> HealthCap. Portfolio. 2024.

<sup>2.</sup> Alexion. Alexion to Acquire Wilson Therapeutics AB. Press Release, April 2018.





#### **Targeted Treatments**

Genomic, environmental & lifestyle data



#### **Enhanced Diagnostics**

Gender, age, disease progression, genetic makeup



# 3 Key Insights



Orphan drugs are the fastest-growing segment in Pharma.

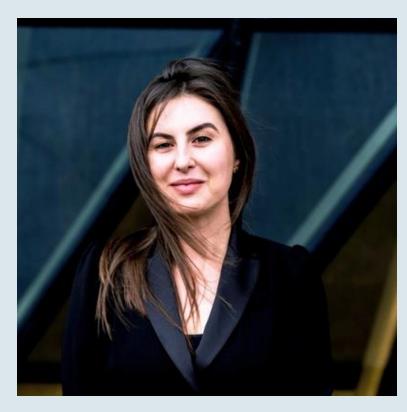


Big Pharma
dominance &
premium pricing
drive strong
investment value.



They are shaping the future of precision medicine.

# Thank you!



**Dimitrina Dimitrova**Master in Bioentrepreneurship
Karolinska Institutet
dimitrina.chukova@stud.ki.se

dimitrina-dimitrova@outlook.com

Access Full Report





Weblink: <a href="https://sites.google.com/view/orphandrugreport2025/home">https://sites.google.com/view/orphandrugreport2025/home</a>