Assessing the Quality of Innovation

Wolf-Dieter Ludwig
Drug Commission of the German Medical Association
Policlinic at the HELIOS Clinic Berlin-Buch
New Active Substance Approvals: Oncology 2013-2017

81 NAS
24 indications

comparative efficacy?
strategic trials

Trends:
cancer drugs ▲
orphan drugs ▲
accelerated approvals ▲
first-in-class ▼

Source: IQVIA, ARK R&D Intelligence, Apr 2018; IQVIA Institute, Apr 2018
Urgent problems and possible solutions

- Research agendas (R & D of new drugs) driven by health care requirements and not by anticipated profitability (more financial commitments from governments)
- Inexorable growth of the orphan drug (OD) market and misuse of the orphan legislation (threshold values for rare disease/definition of OD designation/„significant benefit“(economic) incentives granted should be discussed and amended
- Concept of accelerated approvals limited clinical evidence at marketing authorization (benefit-risk/(cost-)effectiveness?)
- Obligation to perform confirmatory RCTs after approval and stringent monitoring of performance/completion/publication (sanctions?)
- More transparency as to communication between EMA, HCP, patients, pharmaceutical industry (e.g., scientific advice/early dialogue)