

## A 2020 vision: orphan drugs in 5 years' time

On 23 April 2015, Comradis® chaired a lively roundtable discussion at the World Orphan Drug Congress USA, in Washington, DC. The session, entitled “**A 2020 vision: orphan drugs in 5 years' time**” covered the commercial, regulatory and pricing landscape as it stands, with participants speculating how each may evolve.

Participants questioned whether the current definition of a rare disease is still valid, more than 30 years after the Orphan Drug Act was first enacted in the USA. With the rise and rise of genomic medicine, the number of conditions that fulfil the current profile of a rare disease continues to grow. Does this proliferation undermine the original intention of orphan drug legislation? Is it time to look again at which drug candidates are most worthy of incentives? Although participants were adamant that regulatory incentives should not be withdrawn, there is a good case for improved incentives for companies developing drugs for ultra-rare conditions with high unmet need. Similarly, orphan drug prices should place greater emphasis on the level of unmet need being met rather than simply the rarity of the disease.

If you would like to find out more about Comradis and the outcomes of our roundtable discussion, please contact us at [team@comradis.biz](mailto:team@comradis.biz)

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