

Conflict of Interest Disclosures:

Funding for this initiative is provided by Optimum Patient Care Global (OPCG) and Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (BIPI).

The authors meet criteria for authorship as recommended by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). The authors received no direct compensation related to the development of the manuscript. Formatting assistance was provided by Shaylynn Yu Hui Xin, BSc (Hons) of the Observational Pragmatic Research Institute. Optimum Patient Care Global (OPCG) and Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (BIPI) were given the opportunity to review the manuscript for medical and scientific accuracy as well as intellectual property considerations.

Alan Kaplan is a member of the advisory board of, or speakers bureau for, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Grifols, GSK, Merck Frosst, Novo Nordisk, Novartis, Paladdin, Pfizer, Purdue, Sanofi, Teva, Trudel.

Janwillem Kocks declares grants and personal fees from AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, GSK and Novartis, and grants from Chiesi, Mundipharma and Teva.

Chelsea Edwards and Victoria Carter are employees of Optimum Patient Care, a cofunder of the APEX-COPD initiative.

Barbara Yawn is on advisory boards on COPD for Boehringer Ingelheim, AstraZeneca, Novartis, Mylan, GlaxoSmithKline, and on asthma for GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca and Novartis. Investigator initiated research grants from GSK, AstraZeneca and Novartis.

Wilson Pace is on the advisory board for Mylan and declares stock from Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Novartis, Johnson and Johnson, Stryker, Amgen, Gilead, and Sanofi.

Gokul Gopalan is an employee of Boehringer Ingelheim, a cofunder of the APEX-COPD initiative.

David B Price has board membership with Amgen, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chiesi, Circassia, Mylan, Mundipharma, Napp, Novartis, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Sanofi Genzyme, Teva Pharmaceuticals; consultancy agreements with Amgen, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chiesi, GlaxoSmithKline, Mylan, Mundipharma, Napp, Novartis, Pfizer, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Theravance; grants and unrestricted funding for investigator-initiated studies (conducted through Observational and Pragmatic Research Institute Pte Ltd) from AKL Research and Development Ltd, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, British Lung Foundation, Chiesi, Circassia, Mylan, Mundipharma, Napp, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Respiratory Effectiveness Group, Sanofi Genzyme, Teva

Pharmaceuticals, Theravance, UK National Health Service, Zentiva (Sanofi Generics); payment for lectures/speaking engagements from AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chiesi, Cipla, GlaxoSmithKline, Kyorin, Mylan, Merck, Mundipharma, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Sanofi Genzyme, Teva Pharmaceuticals; payment for manuscript preparation from Mundipharma, Teva Pharmaceuticals; payment for the development of educational materials from Mundipharma, Novartis; payment for travel/accommodation/meeting expenses from AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Circassia, Mundipharma, Napp, Novartis, Teva Pharmaceuticals; funding for patient enrolment or completion of research from Chiesi, Novartis, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Zentiva (Sanofi Generics); stock/stock options from AKL Research and Development Ltd which produces phytopharmaceuticals; owns 74% of the social enterprise Optimum Patient Care Ltd (Australia and UK) and 74% of Observational and Pragmatic Research Institute Pte Ltd (Singapore); and is peer reviewer for grant committees of the Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation programme, and Health Technology Assessment.