

Dear Editor:

The May 14 piece *Globalized Clinical Trials and Informed Consent* leaves the mistaken impression that Pfizer opposes informed consent in its global clinical trials. This is false. Informed consent disclosures are part of all Pfizer clinical trials, regardless of location, and follow well-accepted practices, including ICH Guidelines as well as the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. Our clinical trial policies are posted on Pfizer.com/sciencepolicy.

Contrary to the allegations reported in the story, the principal investigator for Pfizer's 1996 clinical trial in Nigeria (a Nigerian pediatrician) engaged local nurses, who explained to the parents of the study participants, as part of the informed consent process, that participation was voluntary and other treatments were available. Additionally, prior to the trial, Trovan had been tested in children in two pharmacokinetic studies, as well as trials involving more than 5,000 adult patients. The results of the 1996 trial showed that Trovan was a highly effective treatment for meningococcal meningitis.

Pfizer has and continues to be a leader in designing and conducting global clinical trials. We appreciate the importance of doing this ethically and welcome the development of international standards.

Sincerely,

Jack Watters, M.D.