Clinical approval success highest for smallest firms among the top 50

Success rates were nearly 30% higher for 30 smallest firms vs. 10 largest

- Small molecules constituted the preponderance (85%) of drugs that entered the clinical pipelines of top 50 pharmaceutical firms in the 1993-04 period.
- Antineoplastic/immunologics were the drugs most frequently taken into clinical testing for all firm size groups within the top 50 companies.
- Among self-originated compounds, CNS was the therapeutic class with the highest share of investigational drugs for each firm size group within the top 50 companies.
- Top 10 firms terminated a higher share of their failures in Phase I than did smaller firms among the 50 largest phamas.
- Large molecule clinical approval success rates outpaced small molecules by nearly 2:1 across all top 50 phamas.
- Transitioning compounds from Phase II to Phase III posed a large hurdle across all top companies.