The biopharmaceutical industry brings profound value to patients through new treatments and cures for society's most devastating and costly diseases and conditions, providing millions of patients with treatment options they would not otherwise have. Since 2000, PhRMA member companies have invested over $800 billion in the research and development of new treatments and cures, including an estimated $71.4 billion in 2017 alone.

Developing innovative new medicines is a complex process taking an average 10-15 years. Less than 12 percent of candidate medicines that make it into clinical trials will be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Clinical trials are the most time- and resource-intensive part of the research and development process for a new medicine, and biopharmaceutical manufacturers support and conduct the majority of this important work. Yet, without clinical trials, new medicines could not be approved and—most importantly—made available to patients who need them.

The biopharmaceutical industry on the U.S. economy is substantial. This number reflects the direct investments made by biopharmaceutical manufacturers to identify and operate clinical trial sites; hire staff and contractors; recruit, retain and treat participants; and conduct clinical trial protocols and activities, including monitoring research sites.