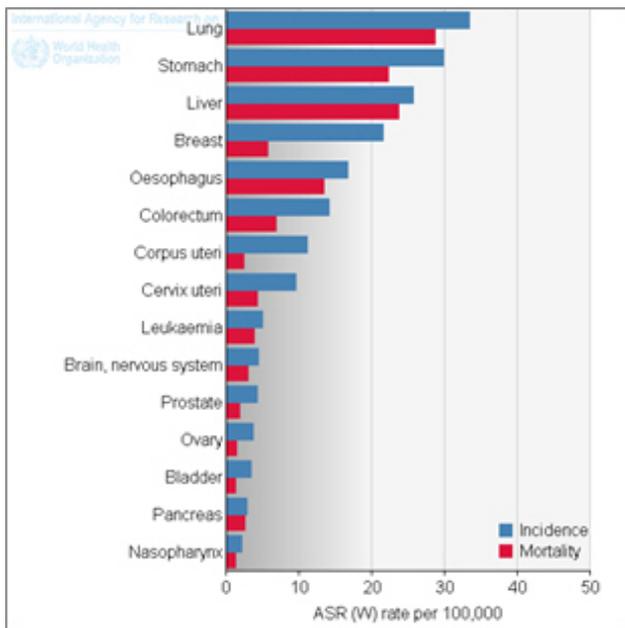


China is Helping Shape the Global Oncology Pipeline

While China's rapid industrialization and urbanization have propelled the country to new heights of prosperity, this breakneck growth has also driven the incidence of chronic disease. **Cancer is the leading cause of death in China, and IMS estimates that the country's cancer-drug market is growing at over 25% annually.** China has traditionally battled a different cancer makeup than the West, with liver and gastric cancers far more prevalent. However, one-third of the world's smokers call China home ([China Daily](#)), and lung cancer has become the country's most common cancer.

[WHO GlobalCAN Data on Cancer Prevalence in China](#)



In the face of the growing demand for cancer treatments, many Chinese biopharma companies are steering their research towards oncology and have produced promising compounds that have entered the global oncology pipeline.

China-based start-up Ascepcion Pharmaceuticals just announced it has out-licensed a small molecule oncology treatment to Switzerland's Debiopharm Group. Sanofi hopes to launch a Phase I trial of a preclinical liver cancer drug it acquired in a \$60 million up-front deal with the Shanghai Institute of Biological Sciences in late 2010. AstraZeneca snagged co-development and ex-China rights to a novel c-MET inhibitor first developed in Hutchison Medipharma's Shanghai laboratory in a \$140 million deal that closed last December.

Novel oncology treatments are also traveling into China through in-licensing deals. Last month, China and US-based Ascleptis Pharmaceuticals and Alnylam Pharmaceuticals announced a co-development deal for Alnylam's Phase II liver cancer candidate ALN-VSP, with Ascleptis taking over the treatment's development in China. Beijing biotech BeiGene also in-licensed two mid-stage oncology candidates developed by Janssen in a combination licensing and development deal signed last year.

For a deeper dive into China-focused oncology deals and R&D developments, attend the [BIO Convention in China](#) on October 24-25 in Shanghai. You can check out the conference's oncology session [here](#), along with the rest of the program!



and Asia to meet and explore business opportunities with China's emerging biotech and rapidly expanding pharmaceutical sectors. To learn more about BIO China and to register for the event, go to bio.org/biochina

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