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# Chinese-Language Podcast: 中国生物医药行业热点话题讨论

*Hot Topic Chat*

by **Brian Yang**

Join our China-based content team for this latest Chinese-language podcast episode discussing selected hot topics impacting the biopharma industry in China, including a homegrown COVID-19 antiviral approval, ADC deals and cross-strait tensions and their impact on the biotech sector.

Brian Yang and Dexter Yan discuss recent hot topics in China's biopharma industry in the latest episode of this new podcast series (Chinese-language description and story links below).

On 25 July, China approved the first domestically-originated oral antiviral for COVID-19, azvudine, developed by Henan Genuine Biotech. The approval marked the first homegrown competitor to [Pfizer Inc.](#)'s Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir). What do the clinical study results so far say about the drug, re-purposed from its use in HIV and which gained Chinese approval merely a year ago, and what does the approval mean for other domestic COVID drug developers?

Also in July, two Chinese biologics companies signed deals to license their antibody-drug conjugates to [Merck & Co., Inc.](#) and [Elevation Oncology, Inc.](#) What's behind the rise of [Sichuan Kelun Pharmaceutical Co Ltd.](#) and [CSPC Pharmaceutical Group Limited](#), which have come seemingly out of nowhere to sign major deals with foreign partners?

Meanwhile, geopolitical tensions in Asia have escalated sharply following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's recent visit to Taiwan, sparking concerns about the possible impact on cross-strait collaborations in the health and pharma sector. What are some of the past collaboration agreements and where are current events potentially leading to in the near future?

If you have any suggestions, ideas or comments for topics for this podcast, please contact the authors via the addresses in the byline box above.

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XX (Also see "[China Clears HIV Oral Antiviral For COVID, Vows More Drug Approvals](#)" - Pink Sheet, 26 Jul, 2022.)  
XXPaxlovidXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX (Also see "[Mixed Results For China's First Home-Grown COVID Antiviral](#)" - Scrip, 8 Aug, 2022.)  
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license outXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX (Also see "[Chinese Biotechs Partner Up 18.2-Targeting ADCs Amid Intense Domestic Competition](#)" - Scrip, 28 Jul, 2022.)

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CROXXXXXXXXXXXX (Also see "[China-US Tensions Rise Sharply On Pelosi Visit, Will Biotech Get Burned?](#)" - Scrip, 3 Aug, 2022.)  
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