



**Testimony of
Trivia Frazier, PhD, MBA, CEO Obatala Sciences
Before the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce
Thursday, March 17, 2022
The Future of Medicine: Legislation to Encourage Innovation and Improve Oversight**

On behalf of Obatala Sciences, a New Orleans biotech company that offers research enabling products and brain power to scientists in industry and academia with the goal of advancing tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, I offer this testimony in support of the FDA Modernization Act of 2021 (H.R. 2565 and S. 2952).

This legislation is critical, as it broadens the scope of acceptable nonclinical models for drug development, and enables researchers to test a drug's safety and efficacy using more advanced and humane methods in place of animal testing where possible. Such an amendment, if enacted, could pave the way for faster, more effective, and more humane therapeutic development.

When the FDCA was enacted in 1938, animal models seemed like the best way for drug developers to study how therapeutics might act within a biological setting. In theory, then, animal testing should ensure that only the safest, most effective drugs make it to clinical trials. Over the years, innovation has changed the equation, and better models are now available in many cases. Innovation in the years ahead will almost certainly produce superior methods than animal testing in nearly all cases.

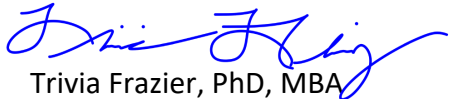
Under the current regulatory scheme:

- 90 to 95 percent of drugs found safe in traditional nonclinical tests fail during human clinical trials due to toxicities not predicted by traditional animal tests or because of lack of efficacy, in large part, because animal data are not predictive of the human response.
- It takes from 10 to 15 years to develop a new drug, costing between \$1 to \$6 billion.
- Estimates suggest that, relative to *in vitro* models, animal testing is 1.5- to 30-times more expensive.

We can apply human biology-based test methods to better predict how humans will respond to drugs in clinical trials. We are already on the verge of the next phase of modern drug development and promoting the exclusive use of data from animal models doesn't reflect 21st Century scientific advancement. H.R. 2565 and S. 2952 will be catalysts for this transition to modern science. We welcome the opportunity to address any concerns regarding our support of

this monumental legislation, and we are hopeful that you will consider the collective voice of our community in support of moving it forward.

Sincerely,



Trivia Frazier, PhD, MBA
President and CEO
Obatala Sciences, Inc.