

**THE MEN BEHIND THE EPONYMOUS
PHARMACEUTICALS COMPANIES**Khalid Al Aboud¹, Daifullah Al Aboud²¹*Department of Public Health, King Faisal Hospital, Makkah, Saudi Arabia*²*Dermatology Department, Taif University, Taif, Saudi Arabia***Source of Support:**
Nil**Competing Interests:**
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Our Dermatol Online. 2014; 5(1): 92-93

Date of submission: 29.07.2013 / acceptance: 16.09.2013

Cite this article:*Khalid Al Aboud, Daifullah Al Aboud: The men behind the eponymous pharmaceuticals companies. Our Dermatol Online. 2014; 5(1): 90-92.*

There are different sources of names in medical field. Similarly, the names given to pharmaceuticals companies are derived from different things.

Selecting a good name is not always easy. In fact, there are now professional companies to help finding proper names for medical organizations and medications [1].

These were of help in naming pharmaceutical companies. For instance; "Zeneca" was an invented name created by the branding consultancy Interbrand. Interbrand had been instructed to find a name which began with a letter from either the top or bottom of the alphabet and was phonetically memorable, of no more than three syllables and did not have an offensive meaning in any language.

However, using the names of the founders (eponyms) is a common type of naming pharmaceuticals companies. In Table I [2-12], we highlighted on selected eponymous pharmaceuticals companies.

We want to stress on the fact that, the men behind pharmaceuticals companies deserve a special attention. Their success stories are educational and a source of inspiration for all the generations.

Their histories are worth to be incorporated to medical curriculum.

Patience, perseverance, donations, helping their communities and world as well as many other good things is to be learnt from their stories.

For example; Abbott, in his starts while working in his kitchen, measured his drugs into small pills he called „dosimetric granules", providing a more accurate dosage and a more effective, long-lasting drug than other medicines available at the time [2].

Dr. Upjohn, on the other hand, began experimenting with making better pills in the attic of his home. Eventually he invented his „friable" pill. Friable meant that the pill could easily be crushed to a powder [12].

The most recently lost one of these giants, is Pierre Fabre. He established, Pierre Fabre Foundation which was recognized as a public utility in 1999 and its mission is to help third-world countries to obtain quality drug, ensure better quality control of drugs, use local therapeutic resources and train scientists for the inspection of drugs [11].

Eponymous pharmaceutical companies	Remarks
Abbott Laboratories [2]	It is an American global pharmaceuticals and health care products company. The company headquarters are in Abbott Park, North Chicago, Illinois. The company was founded by Chicago physician Wallace Calvin Abbott (1857–1921), (Fig. 1), in 1888. In 2010, Abbott had over \$35 billion in revenue.
Bayer [3,4]	Bayer AG is a German chemical and pharmaceutical company founded in, Germany in 1863. It is headquartered in Leverkusen, North Rhine-Westphalia, and Germany and well known for its original brand of aspirin. The company will be 150 years old on 1 August 2013. In 2011, It had over €36.53 billion in revenue. It was founded by Friedrich Bayer (1825-1880), (Fig. 2). He founded the dyestuff factory Friedrich Bayer along with Johann Friedrich Wescott in 1863 in Elberfeld.

Table I. Selected eponymous pharmaceutical companies.



Wallace Calvin Abbott

Figure 1. Wallace C. Abbott (1857-1921).



Figure 2. Friedrich Bayer (1825-1880).

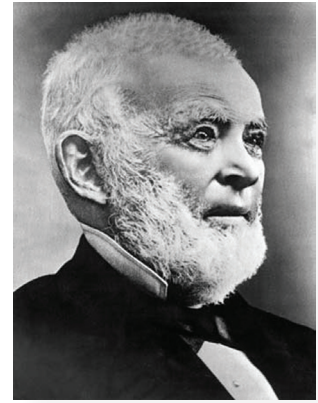


Figure 3. Edward Robinson Squibb (1819-1900).

Eponymous pharmaceutical companies	Remarks
Bristol-Myers Squibb [5,6]	It is, often referred to as BMS, is a pharmaceutical company, headquartered in New York City. The company was formed in 1989, following the merger of its predecessors Bristol-Myers and the Squibb Corporation. In 2009, It had over US\$18.8 Billion in revenue. Squibb was founded in 1858 by Edward Robinson Squibb (1819-1900), (Fig. 3), while Bristol-Myers was founded in 1887 by William McLaren Bristol (1860-1935), (Fig. 4), and John Ripley Myers (1864-1899), (Fig. 5).
Eli Lilly and Company [7]	It is an American global pharmaceutical company with headquarters located in Indianapolis, Indiana, in the United States. Their products are sold in approximately 125 countries. In 2011, it had over US\$ 24.286 billion in revenue. The company was founded in 1876 by Col. Eli Lilly (1838-1898), (Fig. 6), who was an American soldier, pharmaceutical chemist, and industrialist.
Johnson & Johnson [8,9]	It is a U.S multinational medical devices, pharmaceutical and consumer packaged goods manufacturer founded in 1886. It is headquartered in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Johnson & Johnson had worldwide sales of \$65 billion for the calendar year of 2011. It is founded by three American businessmen; Robert Wood Johnson I (1845-1910), (Fig. 7), James Wood Johnson (1856-1932) and Edward Mead Johnson (1852-1934).
Pfizer [10]	It is an American multinational pharmaceutical corporation headquartered in New York City. Pfizer was founded in New York City in 1849. It is named after the German-American cousins Charles Pfizer (1824-1906), (Fig. 8), and Charles Erhart. Its revenue was estimated to be US\$ 58.98 billion (2012).

Table I. Selected eponymous pharmaceutical companies (continued).



Figure 4. William McLaren Bristol (1860-1935).



Figure 5. John Ripley Myers (1864-1899).



Figure 6. Eli Lilly (1838-898).

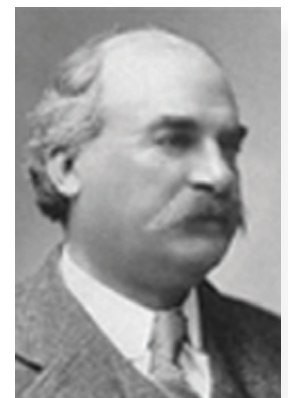


Figure 7. Robert Wood Johnson I (1845-1910).

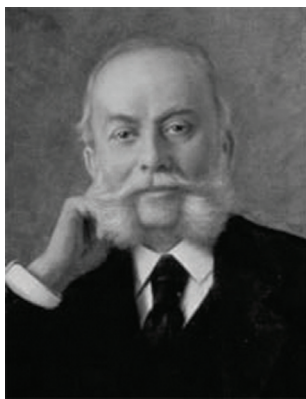


Figure 8. Charles Pfizer (1824-1906).



Figure 9. Pierre Fabre (1926-2013).

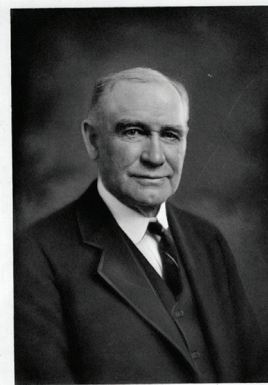


Figure 10. William Erastus Upjohn (1853-1932).
A courtesy of Kalamazoo Public Library.

Eponymous pharmaceutical companies	Remarks
Pierre FABRE laboratories [11]	It is a multinational pharmaceutical and cosmetics company based in Castres, France, near Toulouse. The company had a consolidated turnover of 1.978 billion euros in 2012. Founded in 1962 by Pierre Fabre, it is present in over 130 countries and has more than 10,000 employees (in 2012). Pierre Fabre (1926-2013), (Fig. 9), was a French chemist.
Upjohn [12]	The Upjohn Company was a pharmaceutical manufacturing firm founded in 1886 in Kalamazoo, Michigan by Dr. William E. Upjohn. The company was originally formed to make friable pills, which were specifically designed to be easily digested. These could be „reduced to a powder under the thumb”, a strong marketing argument for the time. In 1995, Upjohn merged with Pharmacia AB, to form Pharmacia & Upjohn. Later the company merged with Monsanto Company and took the name Pharmacia. William Erastus Upjohn (1853-1932), (Fig. 10), was an American medical doctor, a graduate of the University of Michigan medical school. He was the founder and president of The Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company. He was named Person of the Century by the Kalamazoo, Michigan newspaper.

Table I. Selected eponymous pharmaceutical companies (continued).

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