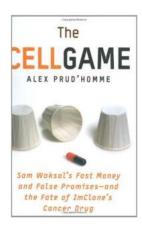
# Sam Waksal Fast Money And False Promises And The Fate Of Imclone Cancer Drug

Sam Waksal, the former CEO of ImClone Systems, is no stranger to controversy. Known for his involvement in an insider trading scandal that led to his imprisonment, Waksal's story is one of fast money and false promises. However, the fate of ImClone's cancer drug, Erbitux, shines a light on the potential consequences of unethical actions in the pharmaceutical industry.

It all began in the late 1990s when ImClone, a biopharmaceutical company, was on the brink of a breakthrough. Their cancer drug, Erbitux, showed promising results in clinical trials, raising hopes for a potential breakthrough in cancer treatment. Investors flocked, lured by the idea of substantial profits and a chance to make a difference in patients' lives.

Enter Sam Waksal. As the charismatic CEO of ImClone, he had the power to captivate investors and sway public opinion. Waksal utilized this influence to create a false aura of success around ImClone and Erbitux. The company's stock prices skyrocketed, attracting even more eager investors looking for fast money.



The Cell Game: Sam Waksal's Fast Money and False Promises--and the Fate of ImClone's Cancer

**Drug** by Alex Prud'homme (Kindle Edition)

: 444 pages

★★★★★ 4.6 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 1263 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled

Print length



However, behind the scenes, a different story was unfolding. Waksal knew that the FDA had raised concerns about the validity of ImClone's clinical trial data. Despite this, he continued to paint a rosy picture of ImClone's future, misleading both investors and patients. The company disregarded ethical boundaries and pursued profit at all costs.

The house of cards built by Waksal eventually came crashing down. In December 2001, the FDA rejected ImClone's application for approval of Erbitux, citing concerns about the reliability of the clinical trial data. This devastating blow led to a significant drop in ImClone's stock prices, wiping out billions of dollars in investor value.

Furthermore, investigations into the insider trading scandal revealed that Waksal had been tipping off family members and friends about the impending FDA decision. This illegal activity resulted in criminal charges and a prison sentence for Waksal.

While Waksal's actions were undoubtedly reprehensible, the true victims in this story are the patients who had hopes pinned on Erbitux. For those suffering from colorectal cancer, the drug represented a glimmer of hope in their fight against the disease. ImClone's false promises and unethical practices shattered those hopes and delayed potentially life-saving treatments.

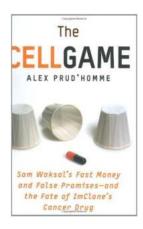
The aftermath of the scandal had far-reaching implications. ImClone struggled to regain its credibility and investor trust. The company eventually faced bankruptcy and was acquired by Eli Lilly and Company in 2008.

As for Erbitux, it did eventually receive FDA approval in 2004, but its delayed entry into the market allowed competitors to gain a significant foothold in the colorectal cancer treatment space. The drug's late arrival resulted in lower market share and limited financial success for ImClone.

The story of Sam Waksal and ImClone serves as a cautionary tale for both the pharmaceutical industry and investors. It exemplifies the dangers of prioritizing greed over ethical practices and the disastrous consequences that can follow such actions.

While ImClone was able to regain some semblance of stability under new ownership, the damage caused by Waksal's false promises and insider trading scandal cannot be undone. It serves as a reminder that when it comes to matters of life and death, integrity and transparency should never be compromised.

In , Sam Waksal's pursuit of fast money and false promises ultimately led to the downfall of ImClone and delayed potentially life-saving treatments for cancer patients. The fate of ImClone's cancer drug, Erbitux, serves as a stark reminder of the importance of ethics in the pharmaceutical industry. As the sector continues to evolve, maintaining integrity should remain at the forefront to ensure that patient well-being is always the top priority.



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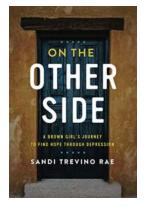
"It began with a promising cancer drug, the brainchild of a gifted researcher, and grew into an insider trading scandal that ensnared one of America's most successful women. The story of ImClone Systems and its "miracle" cancer drug, Erbitux, is the quintessential business saga of the late 1990s. It's the story of big money and cutting-edgescience, celebrity, greed, and slipshod business practices; the story of biotech hype and hope and every kind of excess.

At the center of it all stands a single, enigmatic figure named Sam Waksal. A brilliant, mercurial, and desperate-to-be-liked entrepreneur, Waksal was addicted to the trappings of wealth and fame that accrued to a darling of the stock market and the overheated atmosphere of biotech IPOs. At the height of his stardom, Waksal hobnobbed with Martha Stewart in New York and Carl Icahn in the Hamptons, hosted parties at his fabulous art-filled loft, and was a fixture in the gossip columns. He promised that Erbitux would "change oncology," and would soon be making \$1 billion a year.

But as Waksal partied late into the night, desperate cancer patients languished, waiting for his drug to come to market. When the FDA withheld approval of Erbitux, the charming scientist who had always stayed just one step ahead of bankruptcy panicked and desperately tried to cash in his stock before the bad news hit Wall Street.

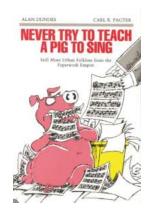
Waksal is now in jail, the first of the Enron-era white-collar criminals to be sentenced. Yet his cancer drug has proved more durable than his evanescent

profits. Erbitux remains promising, the leading example of a new way to fight cancer, and patients and investors hope it will be available soon.



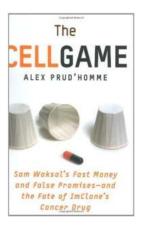
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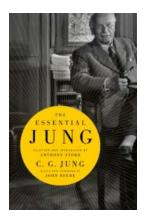
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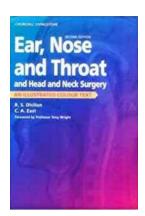
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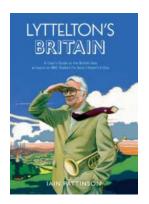
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