

Nicholas Hall's

NEW PARADIGMS FOR CHC 2023



2023

Pandemic

Inflation

War in Ukraine

Fewer Switches

Flatlining
Emerging Markets

The Future Resumed



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SIGNATURE REPORTS

Nicholas Hall Writes:

The global CHC industry is at a crossroads, facing uncertainty over market direction and performance, while the speed of change continues to accelerate at pace. With brand owners facing new strategic challenges and needing to identify innovative approaches to stay ahead of the game, my all-new signature report is very timely.





Providing a new Strategic Narrative for CHC, this report acts as the ultimate blueprint for all CHC stakeholders in how to exploit business opportunities and manage threats today and in the future.



Nicholas Hall

NEW PARADIGMS FOR CHC 2023

A CHC STRATEGIC NARRATIVE FOR THE NEW YEAR

-  **1 Test. Prevent. Treat. Recover:**
The new consumer mantra for CHC.
- 2 Simplicity:** Bring back simple propositions! End “disruption” as a marketing strategy – it only confuses consumers. Remember, confused consumers don’t buy!
- 3 Credibility:** Who does the consumer trust or believe? This is vital if we’re going to defend brands against generics and private labels! “Trusted science” has a key role, but make sure clinical work can stand up to scrutiny!
-  **4 Value:** What does value mean to consumers? What is the relationship between price and benefits? The consumer is thinking about this all the time, why aren’t we? Some consumers are telling us they can’t afford to Eat and Heat and Treat. Are we listening?
- 5 Degradation of Quality:** We and others cut corners to reduce costs, everything from flimsy Amazon packaging (result – our products arrive damaged) to reduced inventory (frequent retail out-of-stocks). Be sure, the consumer notices!
- 6 Adjacent Categories:** Is this where we will find new sources of growth? I think so!
- 7 Rx-to-OTC Switch:** Back again, big time, using the new ACNU scheme in USA.
-  **8 Shrink the Portfolio:**
Our brands are too complex with too much segmentation and too many SKUs. Look at your brand portfolio from outside-in. Does every SKU deserve a place on-shelf? If not, delete. If you don’t, the trade will!
- 9 A Year of M&A:** Changing the shape of the CHC industry and possibly its dynamics.
-  **10 Let’s Say Goodbye to SPOs:**
Sales Prevention Officers are everywhere – regulators, retailers, consumer associations and the Dr No’s at the European Food Safety Authority, who won’t let us describe a probiotic as a probiotic on packaging. Worst of all are the SPOs inside our own companies. If we aim to be more nimble and entrepreneurial, we have to change the “we tried that before and it didn’t work” mentality!

1. So What's the Big Idea?

- The global CHC market
- 10 Steps to Heaven
 1. CBD, a long-distance race!
 2. Mental Wellness: Problems highlighted by the pandemic
 3. Sexual Health & Fertility
 4. Women's Health, Ageing
 5. Sustainability
 6. Natural & Organic Products
 7. Food Intolerance
 8. E-commerce
 9. AI
 10. Emerging Markets
- The Big Ideas addressed in this report
- The 2024 Strategic Narrative

2. Covid & Its Aftermath

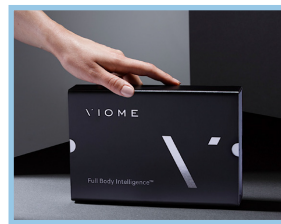
- How Covid-19 accelerated the shift to Self-Care
- Historical impact of recession on Consumer Healthcare
- The shifting landscape of consumer behaviour
- Growth categories during the pandemic
- Rethinking supply chains: how the pandemic exposed vulnerabilities

3. Classic Categories

- Analgesics: Few major opportunities so marketers filling in gaps
- Cough, Cold & Allergy: Heavily dependent on seasonal illness trends
- Gastrointestinals: New consumer benefits drive expansion
- Vitamins, Minerals & Supplements: Trusted science key to growth
- Dermatologicals: Resistant to growth
- Lifestyle CHC: A full spectrum of herbals to Rx-to-OTC switches

4. How to Innovate

- Why does the ratio of high-quality (3 and 4 star) innovations remain persistently low?
- Future microbiome and probiotics innovation will be driven by investment in clinical research
- Improved diagnostics will support VMS innovation and Rx-to-OTC switch
- Demand for diabetes prevention and management is giving fuel to supplement and diagnostic innovation
- Quality science and consumer trust key to successful weight loss innovation
- Demand for products promoting mental health and sleep growing post-pandemic



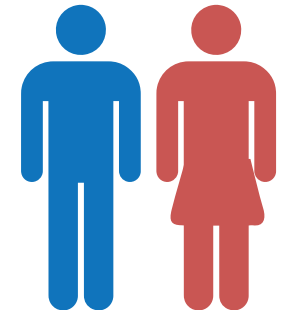
- Ageing demographic underpins supplement and plant-based protein innovation
- Focus on analgesics: New formats, switch and ingredient combinations drive innovation
- Focus on CCA: Natural-based formulations and allergy switches power NPD activity
- Focus on dermatologicals: Sustainable packaging and cutting-edge apps fuel NPD
- Focus on GIs / probiotics: Hangover cures, prebiotics and switch are key
- What does the future hold? Evolving NPD trends, personalisation, emerging niches

5. Rx-to-OTC Switch

- Rx-to-OTC switch in the healthcare ecosystem
- Why Switch? • The uptake in telehealth & telemedicine
- Switch in Europe
- Can Switch be successful only in the USA?
- Voltaren Arthritis Pain: USA Switch journey
- US FDA's Additional Condition for Nonprescription Use (ACNU)
- Innovation hot spots in Switch • Switch case studies
- On the horizon?

6. Demographic Timebomb

- A rapidly Growing Middle Class in *expanding* urban areas
- Generation cohorts: different attitudes & behaviours to health
- What is Middle Class?
- The three most important demographic groups
- What about men?
- Is there a Gender Gap?



7. Women's Healthcare: Listening to the Female Voice

- Women vs men • Women's leading CHC role
- Menstrual pain and PMS
- Are the OTC contraception floodgates about to open?
- Menopause – are there new growth opportunities?
- Overactive bladder – OTC growth category or destined for failure?
- New thinking on endometriosis
- Women's brands and companies

8. Health Through Digestion

- The importance of the gut microbiome
- Mental health is a growth segment for probiotics
- Custom probiotics have the potential to disrupt
- The “biotics” family • The “Gut-Muscle Axis”: a new dimension for probiotics?
- Food allergies: the focus of much research
- Food intolerance
- Unhealthy lifestyles are driving demand for digestive remedies and other GIs
- Hangover cures form a new segment
- ORTs repositioning as lifestyle products

9. Mental Wellness

- Mental health problems soared during Covid-19, while economic worries are a continuing contributor to stress
- Spending on mental health & wellbeing remains a priority for consumers
- WHO declares a sleep pandemic
- Sleep quality is a top health priority for consumers

Spending on mental health & wellbeing remains a priority for consumers

Despite budgetary constraints, many consumers are reluctant to cut back on taking care of their mental wellness. According to a study by Milliman (former Medford, US) consumers were less likely to cut spending on health & wellbeing in other sectors such as shopping, entertainment and travel. 70% of respondents do not plan on cutting their health & wellbeing budget. While we might expect economic worries to limit purchasing areas like sedatives & sleep aids as consumers seek to “non-essential” healthcare spending, in fact this category seems to be thriving.

Social pressures, the rising cost of living and the lack of mental & physical support may have actually benefited the mental wellness category. As an article in *Forbes* magazine stated: “This industry craves solutions in form of a... ‘Well Take care of your stress, loneliness, sleep... people feel helpless and they’re searching for meaning and magic pills to fix things.”

On the whole, consumers want a holistic approach to managing their mental health components, so that products with functional ingredients that boost energy, enhance cognitive performance, regulate mood and bring some relief. Even mental ailments like the immunity, consumers are increasingly aware of the role of good mental balance as an early response to any health threat and the role played by the microbiome, so the rising away from a single drug target for immunity to a more holistic approach that also includes stress relieving and mood-boosting components.

Consumer attitudes related to mental health and emotional wellbeing are expected to continue to drive a need for solutions, particularly when it comes to improving mood and reducing stress. An Innova Market Insights report reveals that the retail global consumer health market will improve this physical wellbeing, with 44% have acted to improve their mental and emotional wellbeing. Meanwhile, French OTC manufacturer Hekim Health claims that, in terms of new applications, brain mood health is among the most launched claims, second only to immune health.

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ZzzQuil: Highly successful sleep aid, with 3 key development stages

One of the few brands that successfully spans the OTC / supplements divide

1. **Non-habit-forming brand ZzzQuil launched OTC in the USA in 2011.**

ZzzQuil was introduced under the Vicks banner, creating a stand alone sleep aid. At launch, non-habit-forming ZzzQuil was the only OTC sleep aid available in liquid and Lipo-Cap form.

The active, diphenhydramine (sedative, antihistamine), was previously utilized in an allergy remedy or, brandy bath, meaning it's safe, with no side effects, or as part of a nighttime cold & flu remedy (Vicks NyQuil), where sleep was an added benefit. There were concerns that such combinations were used in sleep aids, with potential of over consumption of other ingredients, especially analgesics.

ZzzQuil claimed “Not for colds, flu or pain, just for sleep.”

2. **A high-profile launch campaign set ZzzQuil up as a high-profile brand.**

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3. **From ZzzQuil (supplements) other medications, channels and innovation, side from the core brand, there are children's versions, extended release melatonin and “STEM” gummies with additional natural ingredients focused on benefits such as immune support, stress, etc. Contributions to combat sleep disturbance issues (e.g. with ingredients) targeting not babies or prelate problems) were not successful and are no longer marketed.**

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10. Cannabis

- A note on defining the market • North America
- Europe • Asia-Pacific

11. Sexual Health & Fertility

- Huge potential for daily OCs worldwide
- Education is central to expanding the reach of EHC
- Is a male contraceptive pill viable and is there demand?
- Condoms: Little NPD potential, so other ways to swell sales needed • Menstrual pain / PMS market expands via launch activity



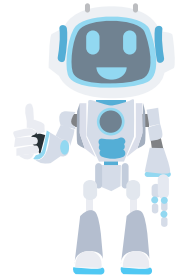
- Intimate care shows plenty of scope for expansion
- Menopause: UK sees the first over-the-counter HRT, while a new Rx drug may revolutionise treatment
- How big can the OTC ED market become?
- Do topicals represent a viable ED alternative?
- Can premature ejaculation treatments find a wider audience?
- Prenatal vitamins prove fertile ground for NPD

12. Obesity & Related Conditions

- Obesity is a huge determinant of health – and the data is frightening • Obesity crisis represents huge opportunity for CHC • Where are the opportunities?
- Evidence-backed brands can be lost among the plethora of weight loss supplements & meal replacements
- Supporting consumers on their weight loss journey
- Apps & wearables for weight loss • Semaglutide: Is the excitement justified? • Obesity's link to other health conditions brings possibilities

13. Digital Revolution

- AI and chatbots • Accessibility of data
- Medtech & wearables • Apps
- Telehealth • Digital communication



14. Sustainability

- Frameworks become regulations
- The Triple Bottom Line: People, Planet, Profit
- Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Reporting
- Collaborate to make progress • Innovation, packaging & recycling – drafting a roadmap to a circular economy
- Engineering, beauty & performance with environmental credentials • Communicating sustainability
- Being in the Wellbeing Business



Nicholas Hall Writes: Shoppers' ethical choices have become much more complex than just choosing a natural product.

- ✓ Is it sustainably sourced?
- ✓ Is it environmentally friendly?
- ✓ Are the softgels plant-based?
- ✓ Is this a B Corp company?
- ✓ What about suitability for vegans?

Does it have a “clean” transparent formula, without artificial dyes, flavours or preservatives?

Does the brand support positive communities?

Our CHC New Products Tracker service shows that vegan / non-GMO supplement launches went from 0.3% in 2015 to a steady 7% share of new OTC product activity in 2022. This was clearly a landmark year. It also saw the launch in Germany of Aesop's Pura Aesop, the first medicinal product in the world to carry The Vegan Society's Vegan Trademark.

Certification and endorsement on packaging, brand websites and social media for materials, ingredients and sustainability are now core practice to inform consumers about products or brand credentials. Certifications are many and vary by region – many of the collaborations listed earlier in this chapter have issued or are planning to issue their own.

Companies with B Corp accreditation meet high standards of social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability. Other common certifications denote sustainability in various regions: Rainforest Alliance (forests, climate, safety and integrity in trading, environmental footprint, Wellsource examples are Friend of the Sea, Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Best claims include 100% Plastic Free, Vegan, Non-GMO, Organic and Cruelty Free for animal testing.

Good use of Certifications

Semex: “We put people over everything by making clean, healthy products that are accessible and affordable to all. Additionally, as a Certified B Corporation, we are dedicated to giving back to a number of organisations that focus on clean water and children's health.”

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- ZzzQuil: Highly successful sleep aid, with 3 key development stages • Is the sales boost in sedatives & sleep aids sustainable? • New indications and ingredients in mental wellness • CBD for sleep & anxiety?

16. China

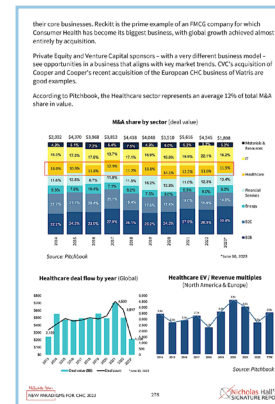
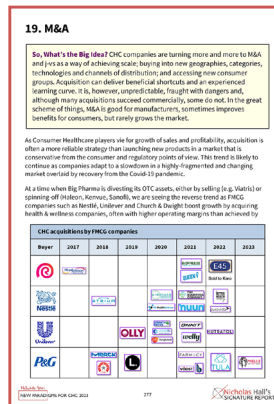
- China plans an economic reset
- Should I stay, or should I go?
- Lockdown easing brings a more positive outlook for CHC
- Despite a weakened economy, China's CHC market rebounded well • Population imbalance: the issues & opportunities of an ageing population
- Gen X goes green and young women lead online shopping trends
- "Sang culture" and "Me mentality" prevalent as consumers focus on health & wellness
- Covid-19 changes consumer preferences from overseas supplements to TCM
- China's fragmented pharma market starting to consolidate
- The NMPA seeks to incentivise innovation
- Technological advances: AI and R&D
- How to get ahead online
- Competition for e-commerce giants amid regulatory clampdown
- CHC product trends & opportunities
- Summary: What does all this mean for CHC players in China?

17. Distribution

- Overview • Retail Category Management
- Pharmacy Point-of-Care • In-store clinic model
- Leading pharmacy chains • Private label
- General Sales List and self-selection
- Mass market • E-commerce
- Thorne: Digitally-native personalised supplement brand with diagnostics presence
- Subscription model • Shopper insights
- Patient / consumer journey

18. Competition

- Cluster Analysis 1: MNCs + True Pharma
- Cluster Analysis 2: MNCs + FMCG
- Cluster Analysis 3: Regional Players + True Pharma
- Cluster Analysis 4: Regional Players + FMCG



19. M&A

- Why M&A? • Type of M&A models
- High acquisition multiples
- Ten Golden Rules of M&A

20. Managing Brands for Long-Term Growth

- Building trust in a brand beyond its science
- Managing price increases
- Tactics that could drive brand share in a static market
- How to compete in an industry dominated by generics
- How to leverage the New Paradigm • WOW! Brands case studies: Innovation & scale
- Olly: Dynamic US brand, with supplements portfolio targeting female Millennials
- Lumify: Rx-to-OTC Switch eye care brand with heavy focus on cosmetic red eye benefits, backed by professional recommendation

10 STEPS TO HEAVEN

1. CBD - A long distance race!
2. Mental Wellness: Problems highlighted by the pandemic
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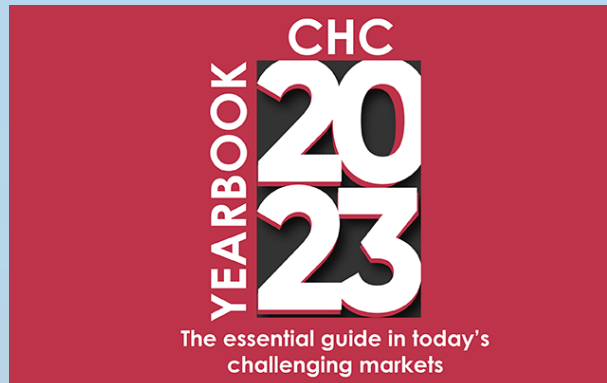
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Nicholas Hall Europe Ltd,
35 Alexandra Street, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 1BW, UK
E: info@NicholasHall.com
W: www.NicholasHall.com
T: +44(0)1702 220 200