

The World Health Organization has acknowledged the need to balance increased transparency with the protection of competitive advantage, and it appears that this issue may come down to a question of the timing of disclosure.

In comments submitted to a World Health Organization formal consultation on disclosure timing policy in April, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America noted "there may be infrequent instances where companies may regard certain data elements as sensitive for competitive reasons and wish to delay public disclosure."

In particular, the organization said that

companies may wish to delay the disclosure of the official scientific title of the study, specific mechanism or molecular identifiers of the intervention, target sample size, primary outcome, and key secondary outcomes.

The WHO Registry Platform is expected to launch a Web-based search portal later this year. This search portal would allow interested individuals to search among participating registries for clinical trials taking place or completed throughout the world. ■

For more information on the WHO Registry Platform, visit www.who.int/ictrp/en.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

American Society of Clinical Oncology

World Congress on Osteoporosis

American Diabetes Association

Associated Professional Sleep Societies

European League Against Rheumatism

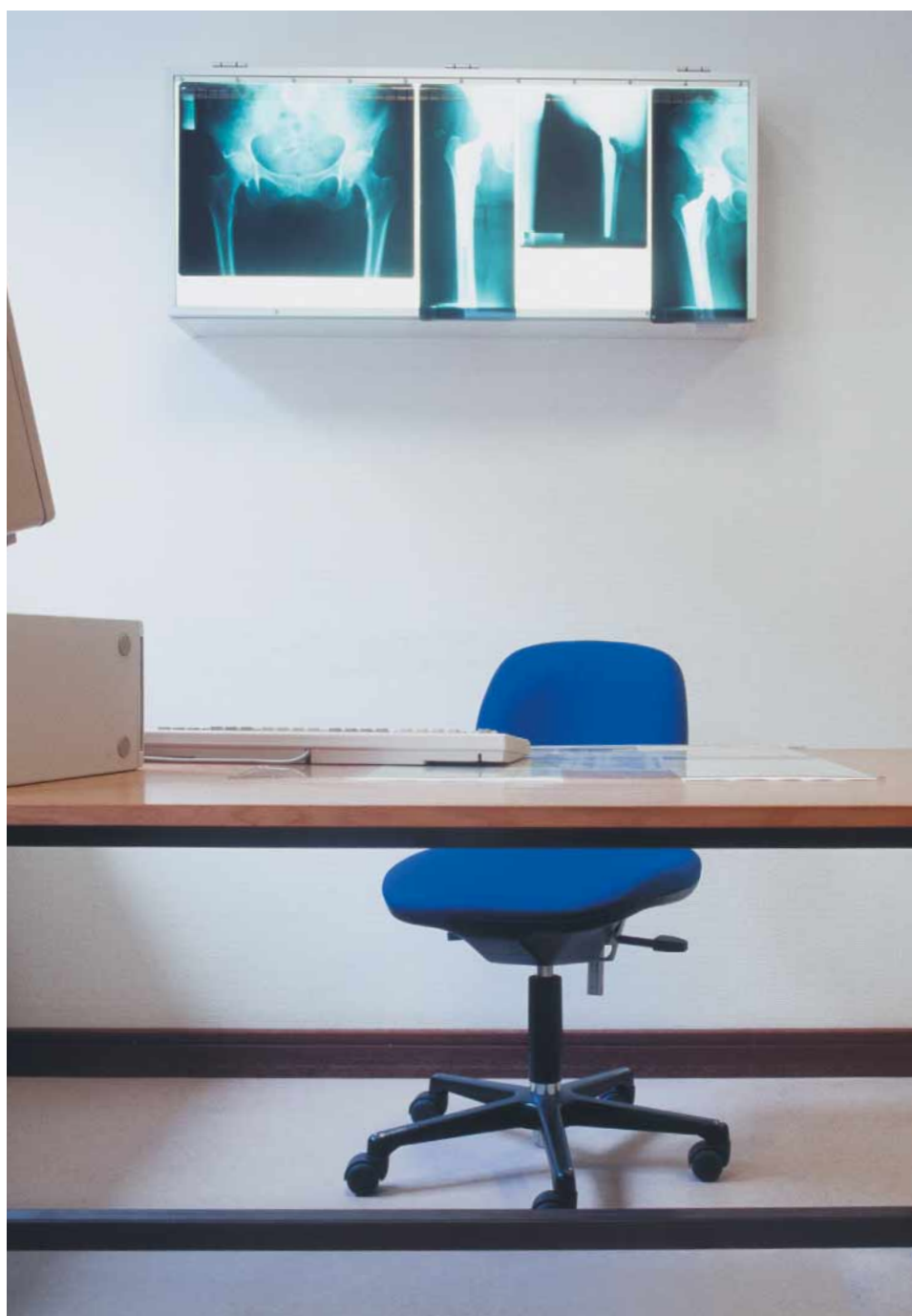
American Headache Society

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