



PHARMACEUTICAL PATENT

FILING TRENDS IN VIETNAM

MAY 2022

INTRODUCTION

The development of modern patent system in Vietnam began in 1981. With the continuous improvement of Vietnam's international status and the rapid development of intellectual property in recent years, more and more countries and enterprises began to pay attention to Vietnam's patent technology, and distributed a large number of patents in Vietnam.

So far, the number of patent families in Vietnam has reached 125,839, of which the number of patents related to medical and health is the largest, reaching 15,030, accounting for 11.94% of the total number of patents in Vietnam, as shown in **Figure 1**. Therefore, this report focuses on the research and analysis of pharmaceutical patents.

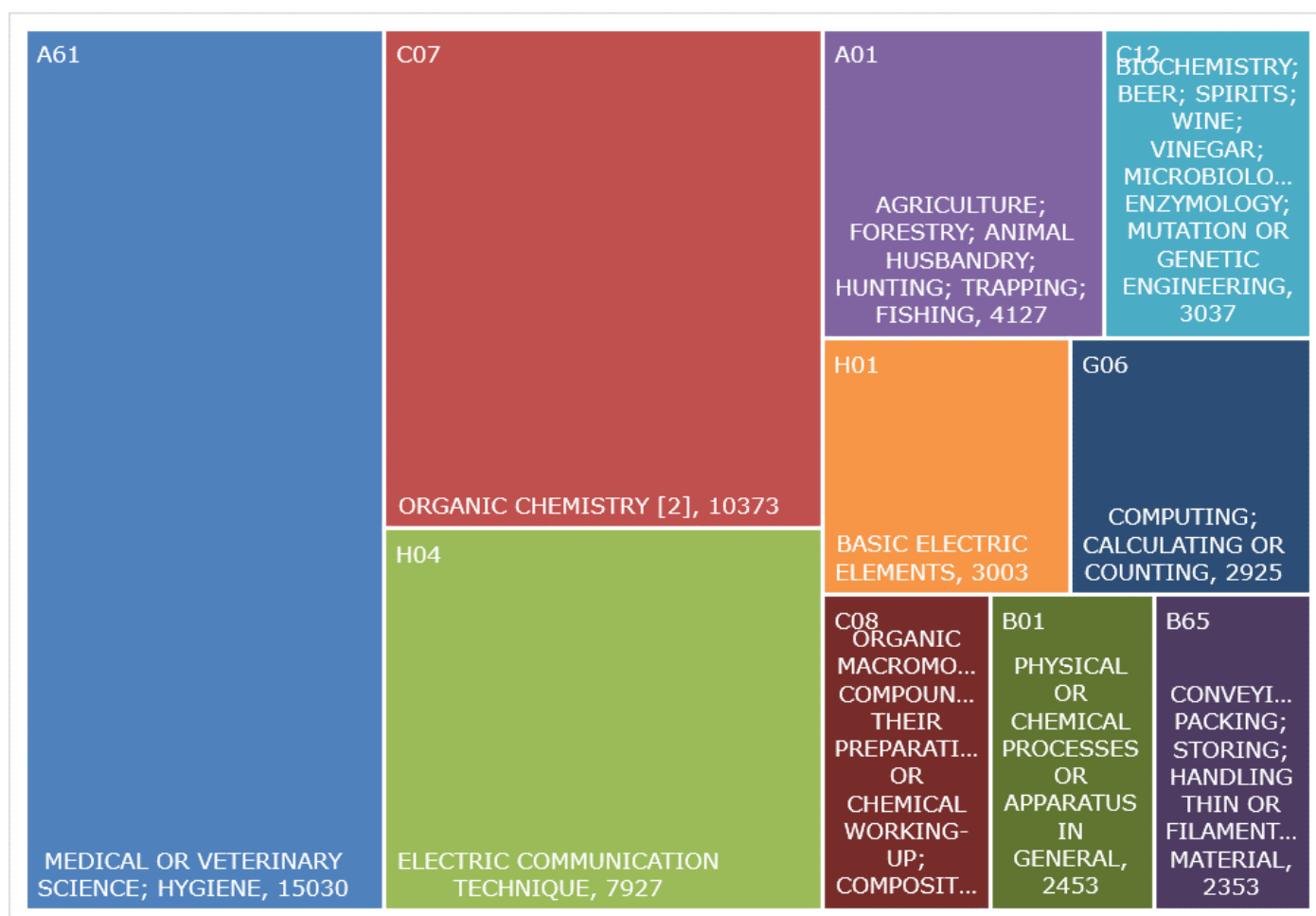


Figure 1 The top 10 IPC classification numbers in Vietnam

GENERAL INFORMATION

The number of pharmaceutical patents in Vietnam showed a rapid growth trend after 1999, and exceeded 1,000 in 2018-2019, with a slight decline in the next two years (as shown in **Figure 2**). At present, the total number of drug patents in Vietnam has reached 13,601. According to the current trend, the number of relevant patents will further increase in the next few years.

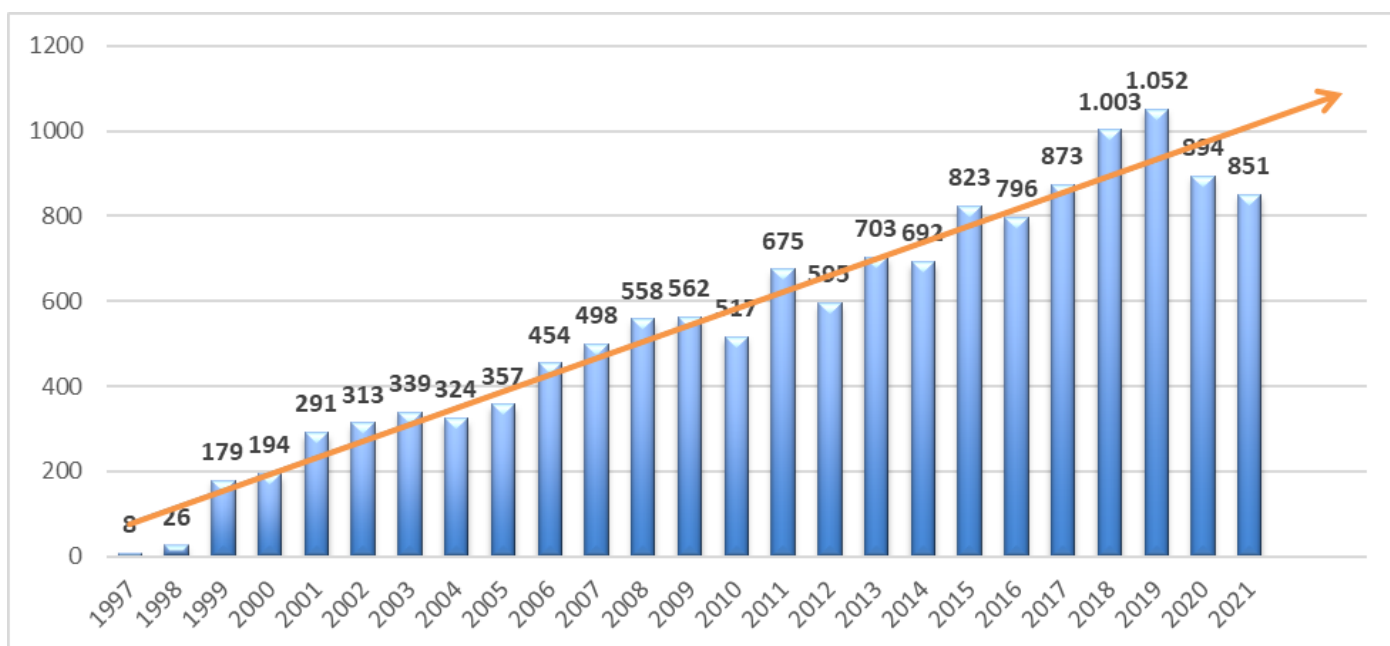


Figure 2 Pharmaceutical patent publication trend in Vietnam

GENERAL INFORMATION

Among all pharmaceutical patents, invention patents account for 98.70%, while the proportion of utility model patents is very low, only 1.30% (as shown in **Figure 3**).

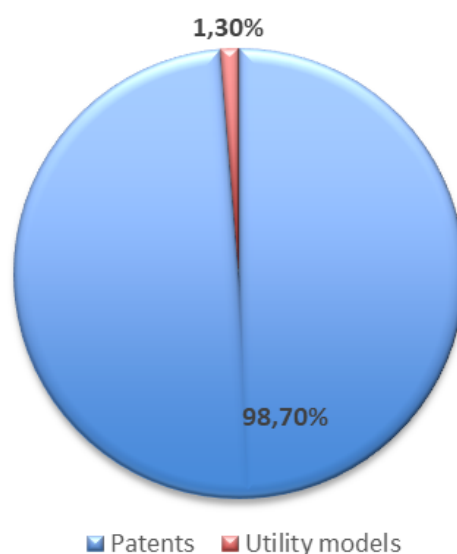


Figure 3 Patent type

Further analysis found that, the proportion of patents not in force is the highest, reaching 35.98%, while the proportion of granted patents is only 22.84%, and the rest are pending or undetermined (as shown in **Figure 4**).

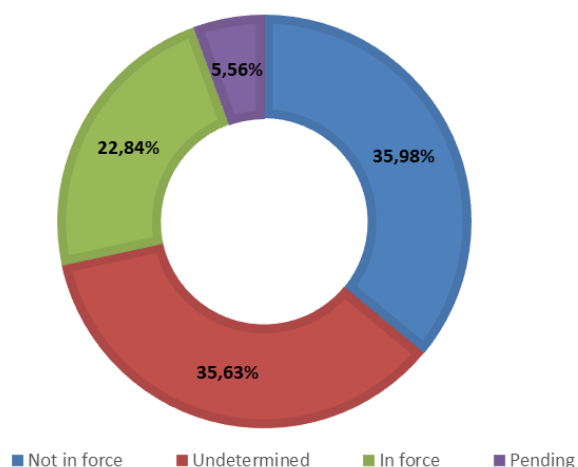


Figure 4 Legal status

GEOGRAPHIC TERRITORIES

When analyzing the technology origin countries of pharmaceutical patents in Vietnam, it is found that the vast majority of patent technologies come from foreign patent applicants. Among them, the United States accounts for the highest proportion, reaching 42.88%, followed by the EPO and Japan, and the proportion of local patents in Vietnam is only 6.94% (as shown in **Figure 5**).

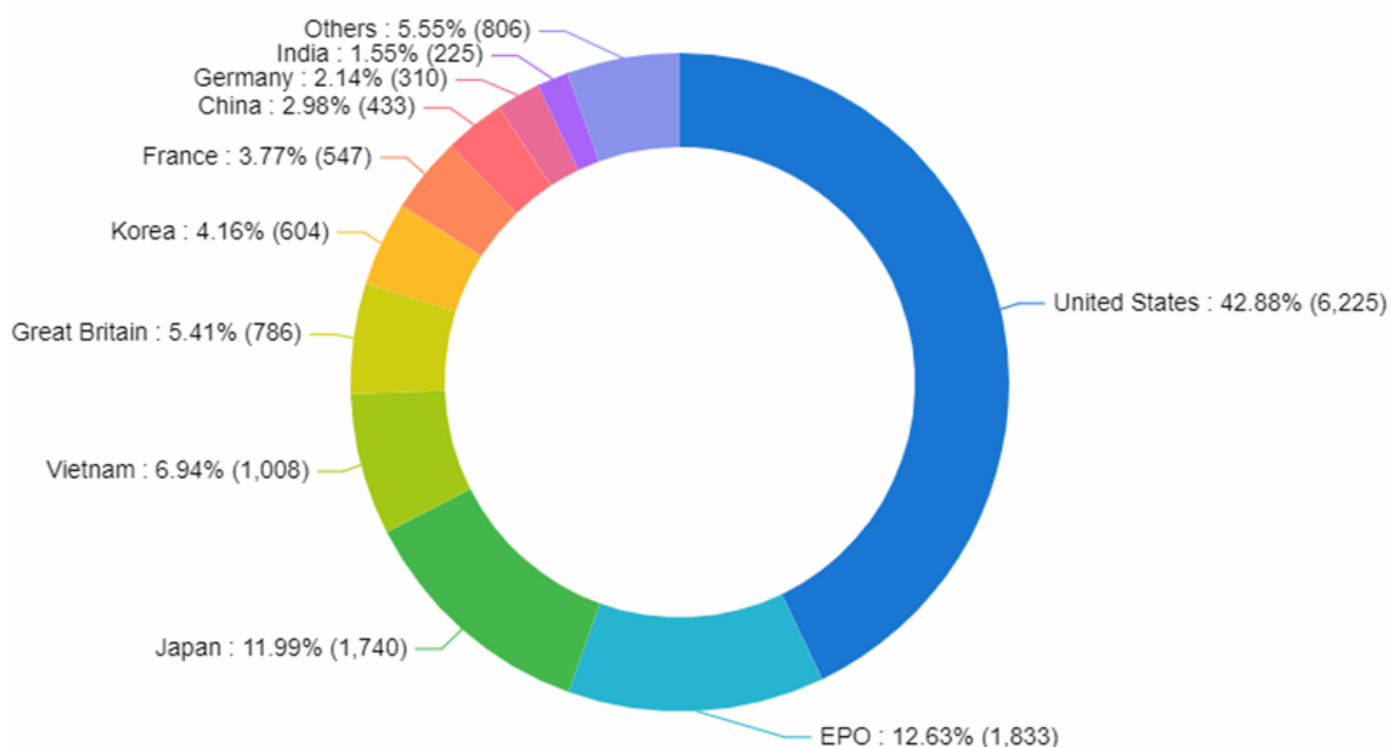


Figure 5 Top countries of origin

GEOGRAPHIC TERRITORIES

Further analysis shows that the number of patent applications in the United States and Japan has been relatively stable in recent years, while the number of patent applications in the European Bureau has declined in the past two years. In sharp contrast, the number of patent applications in Vietnam has increased significantly (as shown in **Figure 6**).

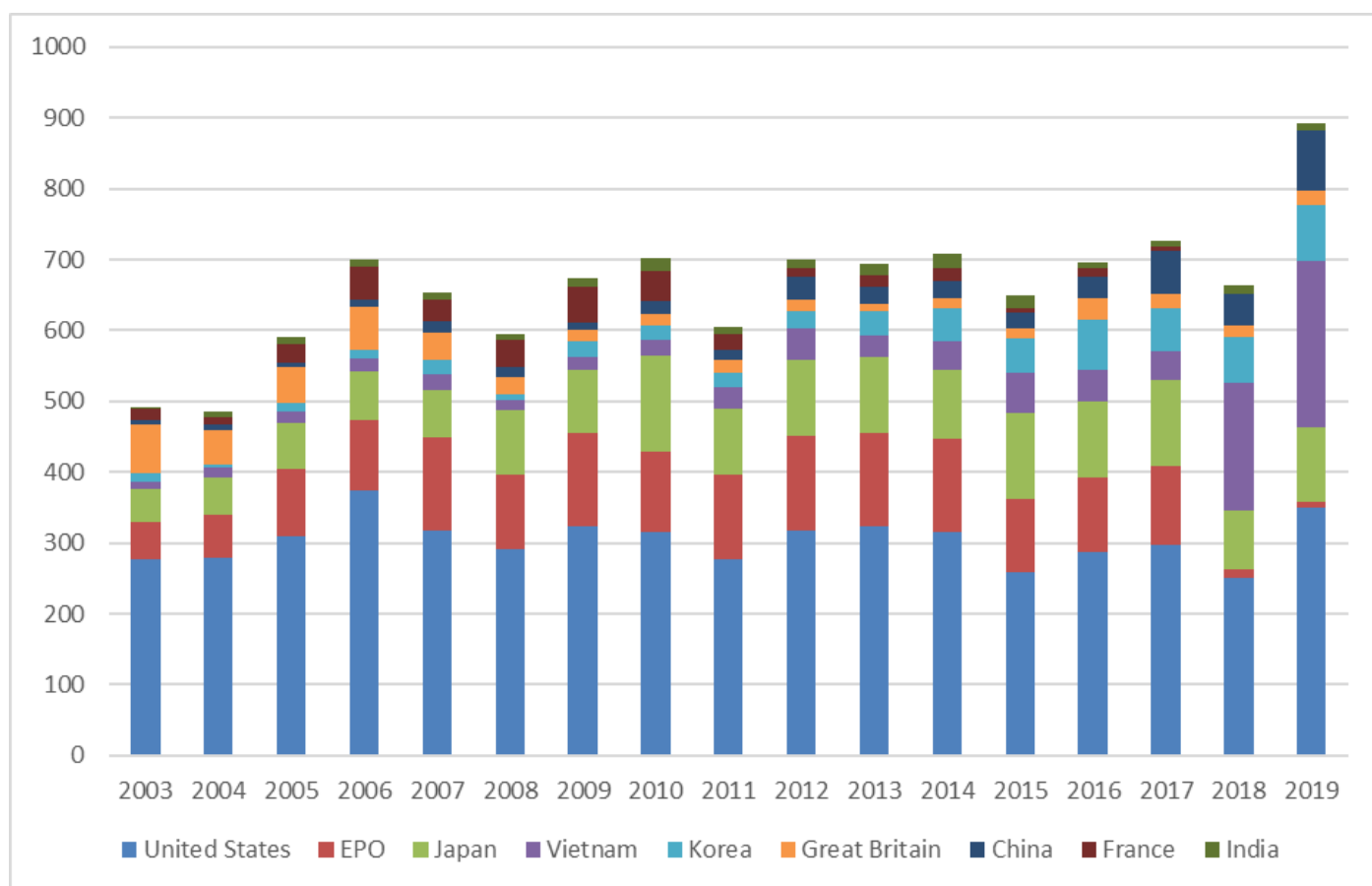


Figure 6 Top countries of origin trend

KEY TECHNOLOGIES

Among the pharmaceutical patents in Vietnam, the IPC classification number with the largest number of patents is A61P35/00, which is much higher than other IPC classification numbers, indicating that antineoplastic agents are highly concerned in Vietnam (as shown in **Figure 7**).

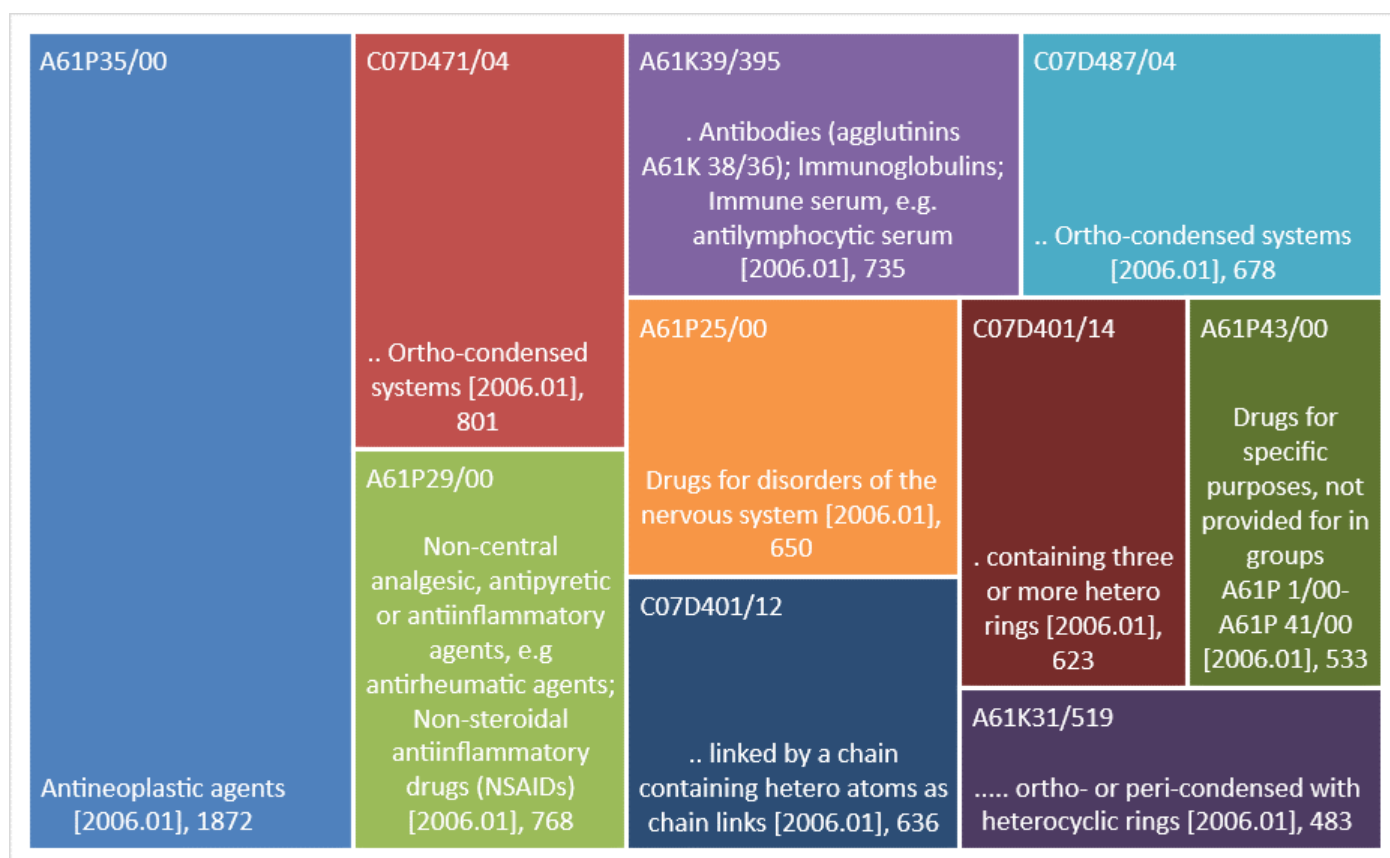


Figure 7 The top 10 IPC classification numbers

STANDARDIZED CURRENT ASSIGNEES

In the field of pharmaceutical patents, the top 10 companies in Vietnam are all from the United States and European countries, among which Novartis has the highest number of applications of 434 (as shown in **Figure 8**).

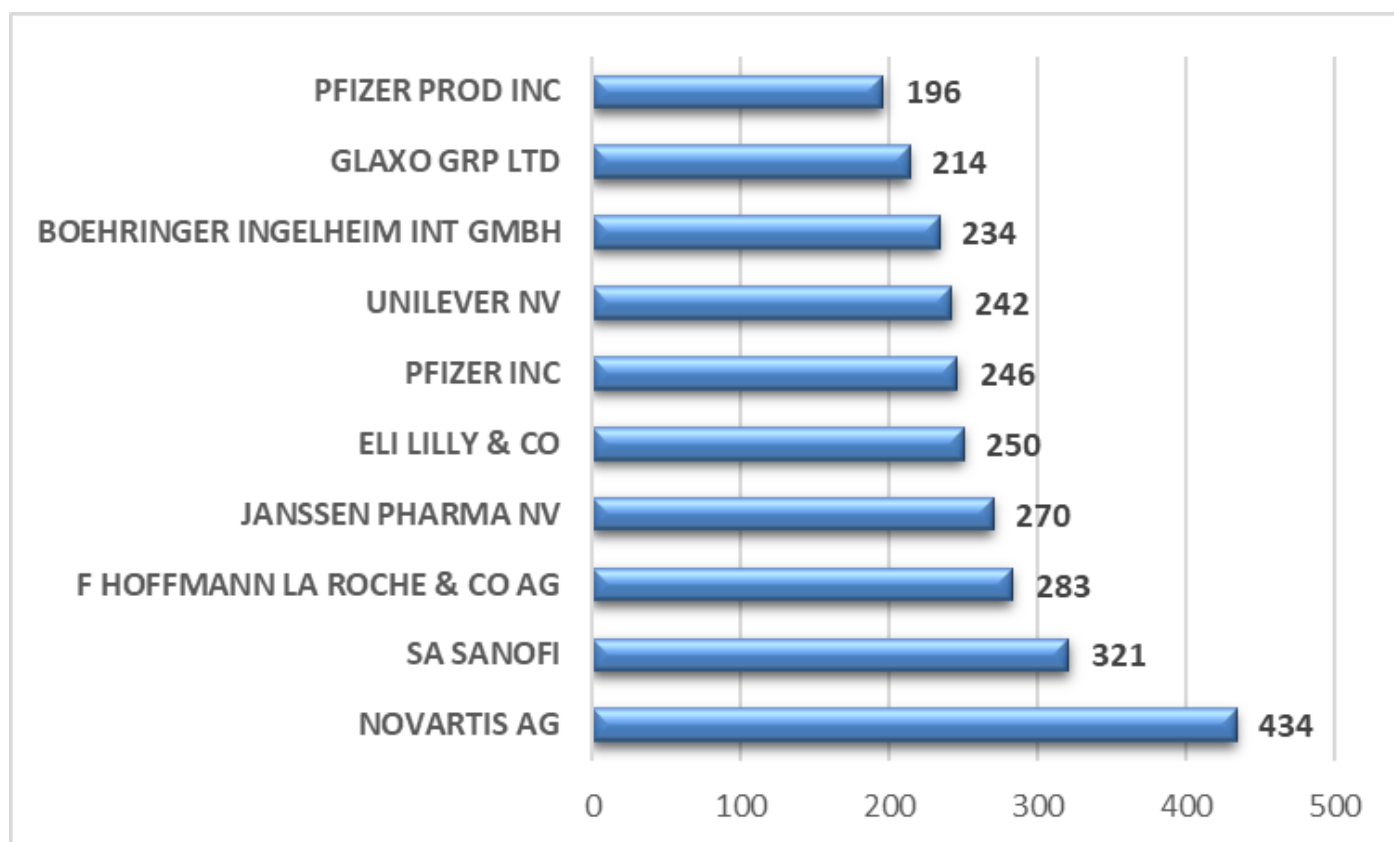


Figure 8 The top 10 standardized current assignees

STANDARDIZED CURRENT ASSIGNEES

Through further analysis of the fields concerned by the top 10 companies' patent technologies, it can be found that medicinal preparations containing organic active ingredients (as shown in **Figure 9**) have the highest attention.

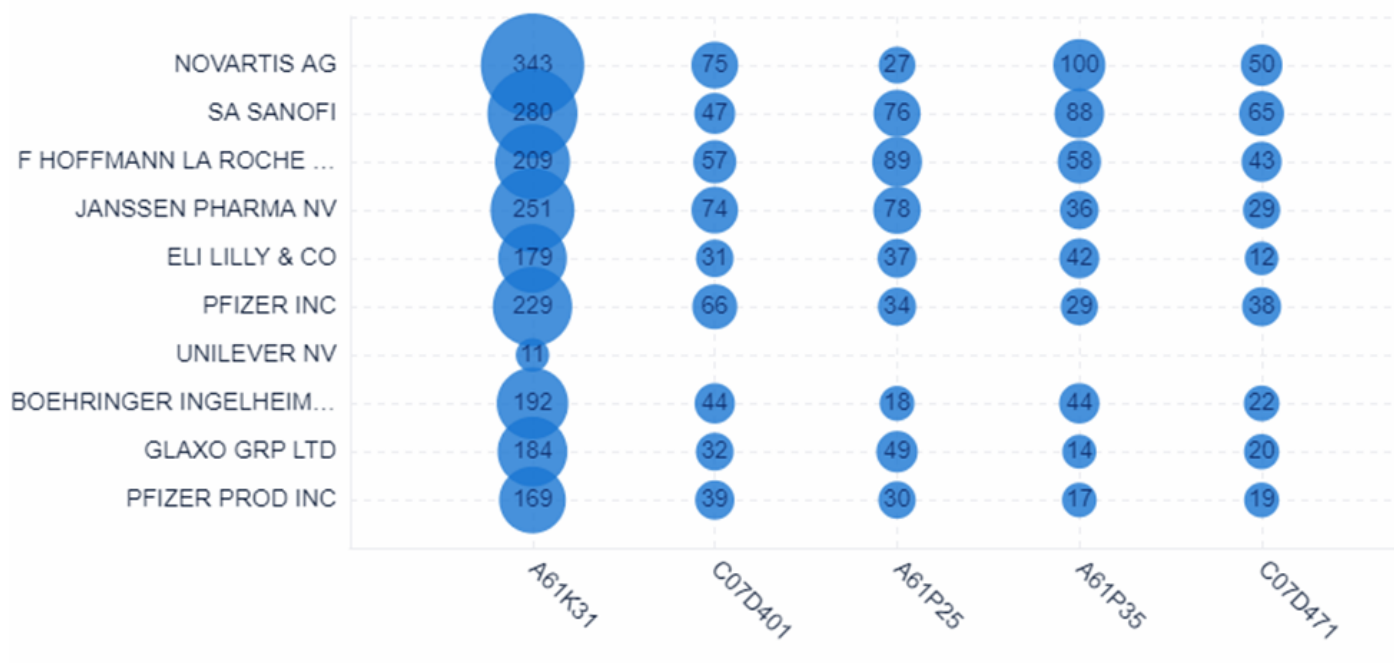


Figure 9 Technology focus of top assignees

CONCLUSION

Pharmaceutical patents play an important role in Vietnam's patented technology.

At present, companies from the United States, Europe, Japan and other countries have distributed some pharmaceutical patents in Vietnam, **especially** patents related to **antineoplastic agents** and **organic synthetic pharmaceutical**.

Therefore, more attention should be paid to Vietnam's pharmaceutical patents in the future.