Following present discussions about saving costs through outsourcing, neglecting improvement potentials by optimizing existing plants, one wonders if the pharmaceutical industry is about to lose its roots in advanced countries. We remain optimistic: Having assessed many plants’ manufacturing capabilities, we believe that the benefits of keeping production in high-developed regions outweigh by far what can be gained by transferring manufacturing abroad for the sake of costs.

We make this case in more detail in the first chapter. The final chapter of the book introduces an approach to optimizing production from a true network perspective. After having focused on site optimization for the past years, we argue this is the next step the industry has to take. The leaders of global OPEX programs are in the driver-seat to lead this development as they already manage from a multi-site perspective.