



INTERNATIONAL GENERIC AND
BIOSIMILAR MEDICINES ASSOCIATION

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For Immediate Release

Jim Keon of CGPA Takes Over as IGBA Chair

Geneva, January 5, 2026 – The [International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association \(IGBA\)](#), which represents global manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines, announced today that Jim Keon, President of the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA) and Biosimilars Canada, has assumed the role of IGBA Chair for 2026. He succeeds Shinichiro Hirose, Director of International Affairs at the Japan Generic Medicines Association (JGA).

Mariano Genovesi, General Counsel and Intellectual Property Director at the Argentine Pharmaceutical Industry Chamber (CILFA), will serve as IGBA Vice-Chair for 2026.

Outgoing IGBA Chair Shinichiro Hirose noted the association's progress over the past year. "In 2025, IGBA continued to strengthen the global voice of generic and biosimilar medicine manufacturers," he said. "We launched our [IP and Competition Report](#), participated in key events during the [United Nations General Assembly](#) week and the [World Health Summit](#), co-sponsored the first ICH guideline on biosimilars, and submitted [comments](#) on international trade barriers. IGBA also completed its sixth Global Biosimilars Week, and advanced work on [Single Global Development](#) and on the broader social value of generic and biosimilar medicines. Important work remains on our priorities, including balanced intellectual property systems, regulatory convergence, and resilient, sustainable markets. The IGBA community will continue driving these goals forward."

IGBA Secretary General Susana Almeida highlighted the changing international environment. "Last year brought significant global challenges. Ensuring patient access remains more important than ever: generics and biosimilars continue to be the backbone of equitable healthcare, supplying most of the world's essential medicines," she said. "We strengthened collaborations with key global health stakeholders and [joined the Coalition for Access to NCD Medicines and Products](#). We will continue ensuring that IGBA's voice is heard."

Incoming Chair Jim Keon, now beginning his third term as IGBA Chair, brings more than 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry. "I am honoured to take on this role again," Keon said. "In a rapidly changing world, access to safe, effective, high-quality, and cost-effective medicines remains fundamental. The generics and biosimilars industries play a vital role in supporting healthier, more resilient societies. The IGBA community is committed to its vision, and we will continue working to expand access to medicines worldwide. I look forward to building on the strong foundation laid by my predecessor and advancing IGBA's mission and priorities."

About IGBA: The International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA) strengthens cooperation between associations representing manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines from around the world. Adopting a patient centric approach, IGBA works to improve patients' access to quality assured, safe and cost-effective medicines by promoting competition and enabling innovation in the pharmaceutical sector and sustainable economic contributions for all stakeholders. For more details, regarding IGBA and its member associations, see the IGBA website at: www.igbamedicines.org