



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **IGPA becomes IGBA and chairmanship shifts to South Africa**

TORONTO, CANADA (October 13, 2015).- Jim Keon, President of the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA) and Chair of the IGBA, announced at the IGBA Conference in Toronto that the International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (IGBA) will register as an association in Geneva, Switzerland. The legal incorporation strengthens existing informal links with international institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (IGBA) was founded as IGPA (International Generic Pharmaceutical Alliance) in March 1997 to strengthen cooperation between associations representing manufacturers of generic medicines. The name of the organization was changed in September 2015 to International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (IGBA) to reflect the evolving nature of the industry. By doing so, IGBA has become the first global trade association encompassing biosimilar medicines in its name as well. Its membership includes the EGA (Europe), the CGPA (Canada), the GPhA (USA), the JAPM (Jordan), the NAPM (South Africa), the TGPA (Taiwan) and the JGA (Japan) while the associations from Australia (GBMA), Brazil (ProGenericos) and Mexico (AMEGI) are Associate Members.

The common [IGBA principles](#) are: access to affordable quality medicines, ensuring timely access for patients, global harmonisation of regulations related to quality, improving regulatory and legal expertise and preventing the production and trade of counterfeit versions of medicines.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, Jim Keon handed over the chairmanship of the IGBA to Vivian Frittelli, Chief Executive Officer of South Africa's National Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (NAPM) which represents the generic and biosimilar medicines industries in South Africa. Vivian has been a member of the IGBA management committee for the past three years.

"In an era when increasing demands are being made on the world's healthcare services, generic and biosimilar medicines provide a major benefit to society by ensuring patient access to quality, safe and effective medicines while reducing the cost of pharmaceutical care", commented the new Chair of the IGBA Vivian Frittelli.

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### **About IGBA**

The International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (IGBA) was founded as IGPA (International Generic Pharmaceutical Alliance) in March 1997 to strengthen cooperation between associations representing manufacturers of generic medicines. Its membership includes the EGA (Europe), the CGPA (Canada), the GPhA (USA), the JAPM (Jordan), the NAPM (South Africa), the TGPA (Taiwan) and the JGA (Japan) while the associations from Australia (GBMA), Brazil (ProGenericos) and Mexico (AMEGI) are Associate Members. The IGBA is at the forefront of stimulating competitiveness and innovation in the pharmaceutical sector by providing high quality pro-competitive medicines to millions of patients around the world. Through its constituent member associations, the IGBA maintains constant dialogue with government authorities (including the European Commission for Europe) as well as with international institutions such as WTO, WIPO and WHO. More information: [www.igbamedicines.com](http://www.igbamedicines.com)