



BRITISH GENERIC MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Monday, 19 May 2008

For immediate release

Innes pledges 'more voice' for BGMA as industry lays out its credentials

Kim Innes, incoming Chairman of the British Generic Manufacturers' Association, has vowed to give generics a higher profile as the affordability of healthcare remains a key political issue.

In an inaugural message, Kim – who is Director of Teva's generics business in the UK – said that the BGMA was already an effective leader for the industry, but that she wanted the organisation to make itself heard more on the contribution that the industry already makes towards making healthcare sustainable. "Every time a generic drug is dispensed in the UK, money is saved for the NHS to invest in patient care, innovative treatments and of course new medicines. In the generics industry, where so many good causes need to find money, we provide a solution and not a problem. Pharmacy depends on us; millions of patients depend on us; the NHS depends on the cost-effective treatments we make accessible; and our industry drives medical advances, by keeping the innovator companies looking for new medicines to develop and patent for the years that return their investment."

She added that the generics industry must redouble its efforts to tell industry and politicians that generics matter and why. "We have a great story to tell," said Kim. "Generics help make healthcare affordable, but getting access to market to bring those benefits is getting harder and harder. Resources for the decentralised procedure for market authorisations, the launch of biosimilars and 'evergreening' are all big issues that matter to industry and those who bear the costs – the NHS. The BGMA has always done valuable work in helping the NHS get the best value from its budget – my priority as Chairman will be to make our voice even stronger in campaigning for a fair deal for the industry and for an affordable healthcare system."

Outgoing Chairman Dave Gill, Commercial Director (Europe) at Hikma Pharmaceuticals PLC, becomes Vice Chairman in accordance with the Association's rules. Dave said: "it has been a privilege and a pleasure to chair the BGMA, which does an outstanding job on behalf of its members and whose influence benefits the industry, its customers and the NHS. I look forward to working with Kim as Vice Chairman to build on our successes and explore all routes to tell the great story that generics has to offer."

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Notes for editors:

Kim Innes became Chairman of the BGMA on 14 May 2008 for a period of office lasting two years, taking over from retiring Chairman Dave Gill of Hikma Pharmaceuticals. Kim has worked in the generics industry since 1991, working in product management and marketing functions until becoming Director of Teva's Generics business in 2006. Photos for use in trade publications are attached to the email sending out this press release. Kim is available for interview via the BGMA on 020 7457 2018/2003; or via Teva's press office, 0113 201 3907.

The BGMA represents the interests of United Kingdom-based manufacturers and suppliers of generic medicines and promotes the development of the generic medicines industry in the United Kingdom. The BGMA is made up of 18 members of the generic manufacturing industry, who between them account for approx 85% of the UK market by volume.

Press Release