



BRITISH GENERIC MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Press release

Wednesday 26 May 2010

Michael Cann picks up the reins at the BGMA

Michael Cann, Director Generics at Actavis, took over as Chairman of the BGMA at the Association's AGM in London on 26 May. He replaces Kim Innes of Teva, who will serve as Vice Chair for a year.

Michael Cann said:

It's an honour to take over as Chairman of the BGMA at a time when the industry's ability to reduce costs to the NHS through providing high quality, low cost alternatives to branded medicines is so important for patients and the country as a whole.

Our contribution is more than people realise. It's not just about reducing the drugs bill—though we provide two thirds of the NHS's medicines at a fifth of the overall medicines cost. Generic competition also acts as a strong incentive for the research based industry to develop much needed, new, truly innovative medicines; and the security of supply of medicines to patients is enhanced when many manufacturers market the same product.

Of course, along with everyone in the medicines supply chain, the generic industry is under continuing pressure to do more for less. It's crucially important that we do not kill the goose that laid the golden egg by trying to squeeze ever more out of her. I am confident that the Government understands this and I look forward to continuing the harmonious relationships that my predecessors have enjoyed in Whitehall to the mutual benefit of patients, the NHS and the industry.

Finally, I should like to pay tribute to Kim Innes's contribution over the last two years as Chair of the BGMA. She has presided over a number of significant advances and I look forward to receiving her continuing support over the next year."

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Notes for Editors:

Further information: Warwick Smith, Director-General: 020 7457 2065

The British Generic Manufacturers Association represents the interests of UK-based manufacturers and suppliers of generic medicines and promotes the development and understanding of the generic medicines industry in the United Kingdom.

Generic medicines contain the same active ingredient and are as effective as the equivalent brand and cost much less, making the NHS drugs bill affordable. 65% of all medicines dispensed by the NHS are generics yet they cost only 26% of the NHS drugs bill, a saving of around £8.6bn in England & Wales alone. Without generics, the NHS drugs bill would be approximately twice its current level. The average cost to the NHS of a generic medicine is £3.83, whilst the average cost of a branded medicine is £20. Competition from generics also stimulates the research based pharmaceutical industry to develop new medicines.

Our 19 members account for around 85% of the UK generics market by volume. Their work keeps medicines affordable for the Department of Health which allows further investment in other healthcare priorities, and promotes innovation in the development of new medicines.

We represent the views and interests of our members and industry to the UK government, the devolved administrations, regulators, other relevant third parties, including where appropriate the Institutions of the European Union.
