

Press Release

Latest Data Shows the Need to Promote Biosimilar and Value Added Medicines for Better Health

For Immediate Release

Lisbon, 16 June 2017

- **Biosimilar medicines: Recognising that biosimilar medicines can vastly improve access to biological medicines, the IGBA has produced a wealth of new material to better inform patients, physicians and governments on the science that underpins these important therapies and benefits that they bring.**
- **Value in healthcare: A new report by Professor Mondher Toumi outlines the need to better integrate value added medicines into medicines policies to improve patient outcomes and tackle public health challenges.**
- **During the two-day conference, pharmaceutical industry leaders and key stakeholders from the generic, biosimilar and value added medicines sectors met in Lisbon to foster international partnership, cooperation and dialogue to address public health challenges for the future.**

Biosimilar medicines are transforming treatment by enabling better access to biological medicines in Europe and around the world, as stated today during the second day of the joint Medicines for Europe-IGBA conference in Lisbon. The IGBA (International Generic and Biosimilar Association) has commissioned new user-friendly material to acquaint and empower stakeholders with **relevant information on the science and benefits of biosimilar medicines**.

A new study on value added medicines highlights the **necessary reforms in health technology assessment (HTA) decision frameworks in Europe to ensure market entrance of value added medicines to improve the treatment of chronic diseases** in areas such as respiratory or mental health treatment. This innovative methodology will also enable new business models for value added antibiotics to address the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Jacek Glinka, Medicines for Europe President commented: *“Biosimilar and value added medicines can significantly improve healthcare for patients – if better access is pro-actively supported by all stakeholders. It took 25 years to create access for generic medicines, European patients cannot afford to wait that long for biosimilar medicines to come”*.

Adrian van den Hoven, IGBA Chair highlighted that *“The IGBA is committed to improving the information about the opportunities that biosimilar medicines can bring for patients around the world. We look forward to close cooperation with the WHO, governments and stakeholders to deliver better access to biological medicines”*.

During the two-day conference, pharmaceutical industry leaders and key stakeholders from the generic, biosimilar and value added medicines sectors met in Lisbon to foster international partnership, cooperation and dialogue to address public health challenges for the future. Several key studies presented at the conference highlight the need for a major overhaul of medicines policies to stimulate more access to generic, biosimilar and value added medicines.

About Medicines for Europe

Medicines for Europe represents the generic, biosimilar and value added medicines industries across Europe. Its vision is to provide sustainable access to high quality medicines, based on 5 important pillars: patients, quality, value, sustainability and partnership. Its members employ 160,000 people at over 350 manufacturing and R&D sites in Europe, and invest up to 17% of their turnover in medical innovation. **Medicines for Europe** member companies across Europe are both increasing access to medicines and driving improved health outcomes. They play a key role in creating sustainable European healthcare systems by continuing to provide high quality, effective generic medicines, whilst also innovating to create new biosimilar medicines and bringing to market value added medicines, which deliver better health outcomes, greater efficiency and/or improved safety in the hospital setting for patients. For more information please follow us at www.medicinesforeurope.com and on Twitter [@medicinesforEU](https://twitter.com/medicinesforEU).

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 Medicines for Europe (Europe), the CGPA (Canada), the AAM (USA), the JAPM (Jordan), the Generic & Biosimilar Southern Africa (South Africa), the TGPA (Taiwan) and the JGA (Japan) while the associations from Australia (GBMA), Brazil (ProGenericos), Malaysia (MOPI) 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.org

Medicines for Europe and IGBA Communications:

Doris Casares doris@medicinesforeurope.com

Andrea Bedorin abedorin@medicinesforeurope.com