

## **EFPIA Day 2023 Press Event**

### **New EFPIA President Lars Fruergaard Jørgensen talks about EFPIA's Priorities under New Leadership**

Outlined Europe's important relationship with Japan

### **EFPIA Japan Chair Takahiko Iwaya Delivers a Statement on the Drug Lag and Loss Issue in Japan**

- Establishing a platform to discuss the issue among multi-stakeholders in the healthcare community -

TOKYO – 5 October 2023 – To deliver innovative therapeutics and vaccines promptly to improve the quality of life of patients, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA, Brussels, Belgium) and European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations Japan (EFPIA Japan) put forth recommendations on the improvement of the drug development environment and drug pricing systems.

At the EFPIA Day 2023 press event held today, **new EFPIA president Lars Fruergaard Jørgensen discussed EFPIA priorities under his Presidency** and **EFPIA Japan Chair Takahiko Iwaya delivered a statement to address the drug lag and loss issue in Japan.**

#### **Lars Fruergaard Jørgensen discussed his ambition under EFPIA's new leadership and his Presidency.**

As President of EFPIA, Lars Fruergaard Jørgensen delivered a speech on how to work together, for a more competitive, healthier and stronger Europe & Japan. He discussed EFPIA's track record in working with Government's in Europe to develop pro-innovation health ecosystems and a commitment to working with Japan.

- **Competitive.** We believe that the competitiveness of our sector is an enabler for better health. They are mutually reinforcing and require thriving life-science ecosystems with the right policy framework, the right science, the right skills, and the right regulatory environment.
- **Healthier.** New medicines bring hope to people that their lives, or the lives of those they love, can be better. Easier. Longer.
- **Stronger.** Europe and Japan are innovative economies, highly interlinked. We need to recognise these strengths, and support stable trade flows at all times, and good collaboration in times of crisis. By joining forces, the EU and Japan will be stronger together.

Outlining the importance of a strong relationship between the two regions at the event, Lars Fruergaard Jørgensen, said: *I believe in the potential of our sector here in Japan and in Europe and in the importance of collaboration between our geographies to develop the innovation of tomorrow to support stronger health systems, economies and societies. In my time as the President of EFPIA, I am committed to working with everyone I can to help achieve this potential. As always, the first step in each collaboration is an **open, and continuous dialogue at the right level between public and private sector to achieve the change that is needed.***"

**- EFPIA Japan statement to address the drug lag and loss issue in Japan by EFPIA Japan****Chair Takahiko Iwaya**

In Japan, the drug lag and loss issue are becoming increasingly serious. The increase in the number of pharmaceutical products approved overseas but not yet developed in Japan has caused not only a “drug lag” where approval is delayed compared to overseas but also “drug loss” where multinational pharmaceutical companies are unable to conduct drug development in Japan. As a result, despite the availability of promising therapies in other countries, patients who cannot receive treatment in Japan are left behind, and there is also concern about the decline in the quality of medical care in Japan.

EFPIA Japan considers that the following points are important to mitigate and resolve this issue.

- For the NHI drug price system, a system with a high predictability that avoids the risk of sudden changes in the system, so as to minimize adverse effects on plans for new drug development.
- A system that enables the launch of new drugs in Japan without lagging behind the world's major countries and a system that can appropriately evaluate the value of drugs.
- For the regulatory system, improvement of the clinical trial environment in Japan, elimination of the pharmaceutical regulations unique to Japan, active designation of pioneering drugs, and early initiation and approval of pharmaceutical review.
- Promotion of patient participation in discussions to solve problems from development to post-marketing of new drugs by referring to examples from Europe such as EUPATI (European Patients Academy on Therapeutic Innovation).

EFPIA Japan believes that the drug lag and loss issue is relevant to all stakeholders involved in healthcare in Japan. To solve the issue, it is necessary to mutually understand the positions of multi-stakeholders in the healthcare community, including patients, citizens, industry, government, and academia, and discuss solutions. EFPIA Japan is committed to leading resolution by providing a place for multi-stakeholder dialogues.

**Contents of “EFPIA Day 2023 press event”****Date: October 5, 2023 Venue: Nihonbashi Hall**

On Thursday, October 5, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA, Brussels, Belgium) and European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations, Japan (EFPIA Japan) held an EFPIA Day 2023 press event. In the first part of the event, new EFPIA president Lars Fruergaard Jørgensen and EFPIA Japan Chair Takahiko Iwaya gave lectures. In the second part, Professor Kaori Muto, Department of Public Policy Research, Institute of Medical Sciences, The University of Tokyo, was invited to give a special lecture entitled "Patient and Public Involvement (PPI/E) - Issues for Japan Learned from Europe."

**■ About EFPIA Japan (<http://efpia.jp/>)**

Established in April 2002, EFPIA Japan represents 23 R&D-based European pharmaceutical companies operating in Japan. In 2022, combined sales from the member companies accounted for roughly 31% of the pharmaceutical market in Japan. The mission of EFPIA Japan is to “Contribute to healthcare and patients in Japan through the early introduction of innovative medicines and vaccines”. EFPIA Japan aims to strengthen dialogue with decision-makers in order to improve Japanese healthcare for all.



European Federation of Pharmaceutical  
Industries and Associations

■ **About EFPIA** (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations)  
(<http://www.efpia.eu>)

The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) represents the biopharmaceutical industry operating in Europe. Through its direct membership of 37 national associations, 40 leading pharmaceutical companies, and a growing number of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), EFPIA's mission is to create a collaborative environment that enables our members to innovate, discover, develop, and deliver new therapies and vaccines for people across Europe, as well as contribute to the European economy.

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