



**PRESS RELEASE**

## **IFPW to Announce Industry Alliance with Gavi to Strengthen Supply Chains in Developing Countries**

**Davos, January 21, 2015.** The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers (IFPW) will announce a new 3-year multi-million dollar partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance on January 26<sup>th</sup> in Berlin, Germany during Gavi's G7 Replenishment Summit. This collaboration is the first of its kind for the global pharmaceutical wholesale industry as IFPW members will make a commitment to strengthen supply chain management and managers in Gavi-eligible countries through scholarships, mentoring and knowledge sharing.

Ornella Barra, Chairman of the IFPW, commented: "IFPW's members, including our recently formed organization, Walgreens Boots Alliance, continue to be strong advocates for individuals' health through our day-to-day business operations. We are, by our nature, experts in managing healthcare supply chains, including cold chains such as those required for proper vaccine handling. The IFPW's new partnership with Gavi is an exciting milestone for the organization, as it looks to advance its social responsibility agenda on a global scale. We look forward to sharing our industry's knowledge, expertise and resources with Gavi, as well as its partners, to strengthen medical supply chains in developing countries and to improve the availability and accessibility to vaccines for the children who need them."

"One of the largest obstacles to immunizing children in poor countries is getting the vaccines to them," said Gavi CEO Dr. Seth Berkley. "Vaccines are temperature sensitive, and the infrastructure in poor countries often is lacking. Partnerships, such as this one with IFPW which represents engagement of a whole new industry, are bringing new thinking and resources to help the Vaccine Alliance reach every child."

IFPW President Mark Parrish remarked, "IFPW's members and wholesalers around the world have always been strong supporters and responsible corporate citizens in the communities in which they operate. As the pharmaceutical wholesale industry has now become truly global – as evidenced by recent mergers and alliances such as those of AmerisourceBergen & Walgreens Boots Alliance, McKesson & Celesio, and others – the time is right for our industry to take on a more global mindset in its CSR activities as well. We look forward to working with Gavi, and our pharmaceutical manufacturer partners around the world, to increase the availability of qualified supply chain managers and strengthening vaccine supply chains in the developing world."

The IFPW-Gavi partnership was catalyzed by Geneva-based consultancy Global Development (GD) under the leadership of its principal Barbara Bulc. GD played a critical role in identifying opportunities in global health for the pharmaceutical wholesale sector and in realizing this transformational partnership, including cultivating the relationship with Gavi leading up to this exciting announcement.

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### **About IFPW and IFPW Foundation**

IFPW (International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers) is the global industry association bringing together the leading full service pharmaceutical distributors and wholesalers, national industry associations, service organizations and pharmaceutical manufacturers from 6 continents, in 26 countries. The association provides a global platform for dialogue and is dedicated to helping its members and stakeholders advance the safe, efficient and continuous access to pharmaceuticals worldwide through the promotion of good distribution practices and services. For more information: [www.ifpw.com](http://www.ifpw.com).

IFPW Foundation was established in 2012 by IFPW members with an objective to support initiatives and organizations in global health focused on improving access to pharmaceuticals and essential health commodities in developing markets and on maintaining security and product integrity within the world's supply chains. For more information: [www.ifpwfoundation.org](http://www.ifpwfoundation.org).

### **About Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public-private partnership committed to saving children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing access to immunization in poor countries. The Vaccine Alliance brings together developing country and donor governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the vaccine industry, technical agencies, civil society, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other private sector partners. Gavi uses innovative finance mechanisms, including co-financing by recipient countries, to secure sustainable funding and adequate supply of quality vaccines. Since 2000, Gavi has contributed to the immunization of an additional 440 million children and the prevention of approximately 6 million future deaths. Learn more at [www.gavi.org](http://www.gavi.org) and connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.

### **About Global Development – Advising the Leaders**

Global Development – Advising the Leaders (GD) is Geneva-based consultancy group focused on catalyzing and developing transformational partnerships between industry and other stakeholders in global health and development. GD provides unique strategic guidance and intelligence to connect clients and partners with new opportunities and help them reach scale and sustainability for social and economic impact.. For more information: [www.globaldevelopment-impact.org](http://www.globaldevelopment-impact.org).