PRESS RELEASE

European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA Japan)
December 11, 2024

EFPIA Day - Patient Forum 2024

Joint Statement on Drug Lag/Loss and Accessing Clinical Trial Information

Tokyo, Japan (December 11, 2024) – EFPIA Japan (Chairman: Takahiko Iwaya) announces today the release of a joint statement on the issues of drug lag/loss and access to clinical trial information, in collaboration with the following participants:

Yoshiyuki Majima, Director, Rare Cancers Japan

Ichiro Inami, Professor Emeritus, Keio University, Deputy Director of the Institute for Healthcare Economics

Shinsuke Amano, President of the Japan Federation of Cancer Patient Groups (Zenganren)

Kunio Tsuj, Executive Director of the Japan Patients Association (JPA)

Takahiko Iwaya, Chairman of EFPIA Japan

On October 9, 2024, EFPIA Japan hosted the Patient Forum 2024 in Tokyo, gathering representatives from various organizations, including patient groups, to discuss the challenges related to drug lag/loss and access to clinical trial information. This joint statement summarizes the key agreements made during the forum.

European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations

Summary of Joint Statement

The forum participants agree on the need for the following actions based on recognition of current circumstances and the collaborative discussions held to address ongoing issues:

- Prioritization Based on Limited Healthcare Resources: Continuously discuss the maintenance of universal health insurance coverage, recognizing it is critical to prioritize the swift delivery of essential medicines and life-saving innovations to patients and continuous discussions are needed with regards to this.
- Promoting Innovation: To expedite the delivery of innovations to patients, it is essential to examine drug lag/loss issues, continuously review pharmaceutical regulations and pricing systems, and work together with stakeholders to position the pharmaceutical industry as a key industry in Japan
- Access to Clinical Trial Information: Making clinical trial information more accessible to patients requires reforms and system improvements, including deregulation. In particular, allowing access to clinical trial information which is reported to the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) by companies and organizations should be facilitated

To resolve these issues, the statement participants commit to active opinion sharing, engaged discussion, and taking action to develop more suitable policies and systems, including approaching political and administrative stakeholders for action to improve public health and advance Japanese healthcare.

About EFPIA Japan (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations Japan) (http://efpia.jp/)

EFPIA Japan, established in April 2002, comprises 23 European research-based pharmaceutical companies operating in Japan. In 2023, the total sales of member companies accounted for approximately 28% of the Japanese pharmaceutical market. The mission of EFPIA Japan is to contribute to Japanese healthcare and patient health through the early introduction of innovative medicines and vaccines. EFPIA Japan aims to strengthen dialogue with policymakers to improve healthcare in Japan.

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

EFPIA represents the pharmaceutical industry in Europe, with 37 national pharmaceutical industry associations, 40 leading pharmaceutical companies, and numerous small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as direct members. The mission of EFPIA is to create an environment that enables the discovery, research, development, and supply of new medicines and vaccines, contributing to the European economy.

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