

21 May 2026

Press Release

EFPIA Japan

## **EFPIA Japan Appoints John Paul Pullicino as New Chair**

The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA Japan) announced that John Paul Pullicino (Novartis Pharma K.K.) has been appointed as the new Chair of EFPIA Japan. His appointment, following the departure of Takahiko Iwaya (Sanofi K.K.), will take effect on 1 July 2026, and his term will run until March 2027.

Kanako Kikuchi (UCB Japan Co., Ltd.), currently serving as Vice Chair, will continue in her role and support the new Chair. The appointment of a successor Vice Chair following Pullicino's transition to Chair will be announced at a later date.

### **Comment from John Paul Pullicino**

"Japan, as a super-aging society, is facing increasingly diverse healthcare needs, alongside emerging challenges such as ensuring the resilience of pharmaceutical supply and addressing economic security amid growing geopolitical tensions. In this context, it is essential to further deepen constructive and mutually informed dialogue between the public and private sectors, while fulfilling our responsibilities as an industry. This will be key to building a sustainable and robust healthcare system, and to creating a policy environment where the value of innovation is appropriately recognized and patient access is ensured.

As I take on the responsibility of Chair, I do so with a deep sense of commitment. Drawing on my experience across multiple industry associations in different markets, I look forward to working collaboratively with a broad range of stakeholders based on mutual trust. Together with our partners, I will strive to identify solutions that enhance both the sustainability and international competitiveness of Japan's healthcare system, and to advance EFPIA's mission."

**John Paul Pullicino – Biography**

With over 20 years' experience in the pharmaceutical industry, John Paul Pullicino began his career as a Medical Representative at Pfizer Australia. He has held a range of leadership positions across sales, marketing, and general management, taking on responsibilities at local, regional, and global levels across multiple markets including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and Vietnam.

He has accumulated over six years of experience in the Japanese pharmaceutical industry since 2016. He was appointed Country President and Representative Director of Novartis Pharma K.K. in late 2024. Throughout his career, he has been actively engaged in a wide range of pharmaceutical industry association leadership positions and was appointed Vice Chair of EFPIA Japan in January 2026. He is originally from Australia.

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

Established in April 2002, EFPIA Japan represents 24 R&D-based European pharmaceutical companies operating in Japan. In 2024, combined sales from the member companies accounted for approximately 29.4% 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.

**About EFPIA (The 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 36 national associations, 40 leading pharmaceutical companies, and 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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