Welcome everyone to the start of IGBA’s 2023 Annual Conference. It is great to see so many of you who have been with us the last two days, attending AAM’s Access! Conference. And, for those of you who have just joined us, welcome to Orlando.

This is the first time since 2014 that IGBA’s annual conference has been held in the United States.

A lot has changed since then. Not only has the entire world gone through a historic pandemic, but IGBA itself is a vastly different organization. In 2014, we were a small association of associations with no dedicated staff.

Today, thanks to the leadership of Suzette Kox – our esteemed Secretary General - we are a growing and dynamic organization that not only better serves the needs of the generic and biosimilar industries, but are much more influential with organizations like the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization, two global institutions that support greater access to quality assured, competitively price medicines.

And while the last nine years for IGBA were very important, 2022 was unique in terms of what we accomplished within the organization.

With the establishment last May of IGBA’s CEO Advisory Committee, for the first time ever, generic and biosimilar global CEOs have come together in an organized, sustaining manner to address critical global issues. With the clout of this forum, we were able to hold strategic discussions with the leaders of both the WHO and the WTO.

But that’s not all IGBA achieved in 2022. After a multi-year effort, IGBA was granted official non-State actor status by the WHO, providing us a platform to engage on critical issues with WHO leadership.

We also launched an increasingly successful third version of the Global Biosimilars Week (GBW) social media campaign and held our annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur - the first time ever the meeting was held in Southeast Asia.
Plus, IGBA joined the Access to Oncology Medicines Coalition and the Fight the Fakes Alliance, demonstrating our industry’s continued commitment to worldwide access to safe and quality-assured medicines.

All these achievements were possible thanks to the strong guidance of our Management Committee, the leadership of our Standing Committees and the continuous commitment of the experts of our generic and biosimilar medicines industries.

So, all of that gives us something to celebrate here today and tomorrow. It gives a framework for our meeting.

IGBA’s Annual Conference is a critical inflection point for this industry. It is a time for us all to see the challenges and opportunities we have in our own market in a larger, global context. That context can be inspiring – when you realize the companies in this room reach billions of patients around the world, providing the medicines they need when and where they need them.

But it also can be sobering – when we discuss the policy challenges that impact access and availability, when we think about the sustainability stress that our industry faces in some of the major global markets, and when we talk about the barriers patients can face when working to access more affordable generic and biosimilar medicines.

These opportunities and challenges bring focus to our discussions. But it’s at this event, IGBA’s Annual Conference, when we can share best practices in finding policy solutions to these issues. What works in Brasilia could work in Brussels and what works in Tokyo could help us find a solution in Washington.

So, during the rest of the event, I hope you’ll have an opportunity to engage with each other on these policy issues. What can we do to promote greater patient access, address critical regulatory, reimbursement, and IP barriers and demonstrate to our broad swath of stakeholders the true value we bring to patients and health systems?

We have an exciting program over the next 1 ½ days. From geopolitics and the global pharmaceutical supply chain to regulatory convergence and harmonization, we hope you will find this a robust program that challenges all of us to think differently and creatively to address these key issues.

Before we really kick this off, I’d like to thank Suzette and our entire Annual Conference Program Committee who helped plan this event over this past year. And thank you to the AAM event staff and production crew – especially Jennifer and Aquera - who will be working in the background to keep this event running smoothly. And, finally, a big thank you to our Platinum sponsor Sandoz, our Gold sponsor Lupin, and our additional sponsors USP, Sun, and Fresenius Kabi.
We will go ahead and jump right into our first order of business for our meeting with some welcome remarks from Richard Saynor, Chief Executive Officer of Sandoz and Chair of IGBA’s CEO Advisory Committee. Please join me in welcoming Richard to the stage.