



Press release

GIRP joins Fight The Fakes campaign

Vienna, Austria, 3rd June 2014 - GIRP (the European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers) is using its Annual General Meeting to proudly announce that it is teaming up with researchers, healthcare professionals, industry & global health organisation in the Fight The Fakes campaign.

GIRP is pleased to announce that it will be officially joining as partner of Fight The Fakes campaign.

Fake medicines put patients and the general public at risk. Patients believe they are receiving genuine treatment, but instead they are getting potentially dangerous products that could increase resistance to real treatments, and cause further illness, disability or even death.

Fight the Fakes is a campaign that aims to raise awareness about the dangers of fake medicines. The campaign gives a voice to those who have been personally impacted and shares the stories of those working to put a stop to this threat to public health. It seeks to build a global movement of organizations and individuals who will shine light on the negative impact that fake medicines have on people around the globe and to reduce the negative consequences on individuals worldwide.

Fight the Fakes partners endorse the campaign and share the belief that coordination among all actors involved in the manufacturing and distribution of medicines is vital to tackle this public health threat.

GIRP's President Rene Jenny explains that "European full-line wholesalers strongly support the goals of the Fight The Fakes campaign. Counterfeit medicines are indeed everybody's business and by joining the initiative we are making the issue our business. GIRP has not been and never will be shy to stay away from safe supply initiatives which put patients first." Adding "we look forward to being full-fledged partner" and "call on all supply chain stakeholders to join the cause".

GIRP is very pleased that the campaigns' official announcement of the new partners will also include the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers (IFPW) which represents wholesalers and wholesaler associations in 26 countries from around the world. As a member of IFPW, GIRP is delighted that together the two organisations can lend strong support to the campaign.

Mark Parrish, IFPW President, commented, "We are excited to become a formal partner of the Fight the Fakes initiative and the opportunity it affords to collaborate with GIRP and other stakeholders in this very important public health area. Our wholesaler members have long taken their role to secure and protect medicine supply chains very seriously and the Fight the Fakes campaign provides our industry an opportunity to contribute the experience, knowledge and expertise gained at the individual company level to this space in a more comprehensive and meaningful way."

Fight the Fakes encourages active use of its website www.fightthefakes.org as a platform for collecting and sharing the stories of those who are impacted by fake medicines and are speaking up. The website also serves as a resource for organizations and individuals who are looking to support this effort by outlining opportunities for action and sharing what others are doing to fight fake medicines.

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The European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers (GIRP)

European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers (GIRP) is the umbrella organisation of pharmaceutical full-line wholesalers in Europe. It represents the national associations of over 750 pharmaceutical full-line wholesalers serving 32 European countries, including major Pan-European pharmaceutical full-line wholesaling companies.