



**PRESS RELEASE**

## **IFPW Members begin Implementation as Foundation Partnership with Gavi to Strengthen Supply Chains in Developing Countries is Ratified**

**February 19, 2016.** This week, the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers (IFPW), through its charitable arm IFPW Foundation, ratified the previously-announced 3-year US\$1.5 million partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance which is designed to strengthen supply chain management and managers in developing countries through scholarships, mentoring and knowledge sharing.

Implementation of the partnership's projects and programs – representing the first of their kind for the global pharmaceutical wholesale sector – will initially take place through the support of 2 training centers, the existing LOGIVAC center in Benin and the East African Community Regional Center of Excellence (EAC RCE) located on the campus of the University of Rwanda in Kigali. The latter of which will be formally launched on March 24<sup>th</sup> in a ceremony that will be attended by top officials from the EAC nations, partners, donors, development agencies, NGOs and other key stakeholders. Once fully operational, these centers will offer the best in academic supply chain curriculum via master's and bachelor's degree programs along with short course offerings covering a variety of relevant supply chain topics. The IFPW-Gavi partnership will provide a mechanism for the industry to complement this invaluable content with the best worldwide thinking and practices from the private sector, thus creating a truly unique and comprehensive experience for both the participants and students and those providing support, with the ultimate objective of improving the availability and reach of life saving vaccines and medicines.

Discussion with IFPW members interested in becoming involved have already begun, opportunities are currently being further developed, and initial activities are underway. As examples: **AmerisourceBergen** has provided an executive to support a short course being conducted at EAC RCE on leadership and the AmerisourceBergen Foundation will be a sponsor of the upcoming launch event in Kigali; **Imperial Health Sciences (IHS)** will be sharing content for training materials based upon its extensive experience and deep knowledge of the African markets; manufacturer member **GlaxoSmithKline** is developing a support package consisting of scholarships, project management and other needed resources; and **Eurapharma** has been invited to provide strategic guidance to the LOGIVAC center via a soon-to-be established Scientific and Technical Committee.

Additional engagement and support options are always available and interested members and stakeholders are invited to contact IFPW.

Be sure to follow IFPW and IFPW Foundation on Twitter at [@ifpw](#) and [@ifpwfoundation](#) to keep up with the latest partnership developments and next month's ceremony in Rwanda!

*For more information, please contact Chris Goetz, Vice President, at +703-331-3714.*

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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.