



SINGAPORE ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES

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**Singapore Association of Pharmaceutical Industries
wants to partner local health authorities
to tackle chronic health needs
of Singapore's fast ageing population**

*To drive awareness of benefits of innovative medicine
for earlier disease intervention*

Singapore, 7 Oct 2005 – The Singapore Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (SAPI) wants to consult and collaborate with local health authorities on making innovative medicine affordable and accessible to Singapore's senior citizens.

Jason Humphries, president of SAPI and his new board, said SAPI wants to do this to tackle the chronic disease health needs of Singapore's fast ageing population, through closer partnership with local health authorities.

He said that the association previously worked with the Health Science Authority on the DAC (Disease Awareness Campaign) Guidelines, and received approval for SAPI members to self regulate its disease awareness campaigns for the public.

The head of Bristol-Myers Squibb in Singapore and Malaysia, said SAPI wants more of this kind of consultative and collaborative partnership for the better health outcome of the Singapore people. SAPI wants to explore how it can help local health authorities provide affordable innovative medication through the Standard Drug Listing, for example, for easy access to the public.

Mr Humphries said SAPI welcomed the government's recent announcements on chronic diseases, including allowing Medisave use for outpatient treatment of chronic diseases; and the new registry of GPs scheduled for 2007, to treat chronic diseases. He said such measures will improve and reduce the disease burden of patients, and make healthcare treatment more affordable and effective.

SAPI will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year and now represents 37 pharmaceutical companies in Singapore. He said, "SAPI is able to harness the collective strengths of our powerful corporate membership which represents all the big pharma players in the world, to work with local health authorities here to tackle the chronic disease health needs of Singapore's ageing population.

"More has to be quickly done through innovative medicine and preventive health education to address this fast worsening health need because of rising obesity and non patient compliance health issues for the management of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and asthma," he said.

The pharmaceutical industry is today Singapore's third economic pillar, contributing S\$13.9 billion or 88% to the total Biomedical Manufacturing output in 2004 annually to Singapore GDP. Singapore's falling birth rate and ageing population all point to the urgent need to preserve the longevity and good health of its most precious assets, its people both young and its senior citizens, Mr Humphries said.

Nobel Laureate Gary S Becker was quoted in the March 2004 issue of the Business Week, saying that new drugs can cut the growth of "medical spending sharply". Mr Humphries said, "Innovative medicines can lead to savings of more costly hospitalisation, surgery and increased aged care because of earlier disease intervention and treatment. International studies show good control of chronic diseases can prevent the need, if not halve the cost of hospitalisation."

He said: "Innovative medicine and preventive health education will be the twin responses that SAPI can contribute, working in sync with local regulatory to protect the continuing good health of Singaporeans."

SAPI will continue to promote preventive health education under the umbrella of the DAC Guidelines to encourage the public especially senior citizens, to go for early health screening and treatment.

SAPI wants to also work closely with the medical community such as the Singapore Medical Association and patient groups to ensure the demand in Singapore for higher quality health is met.

Mr Humphries said another longer term goal for SAPI is to advocate for greater patient choice through education by pharmacists trained in pharmacology, drug safety and patient counseling. He said, "It is best that we begin today to educate Singaporeans on how to spare themselves and their caregivers the disease trauma and exorbitant cost of their hospitalisation through preventive health care and the value benefits of innovative medicine."

SAPI New Board for 2005-2006

President: Jason Humphries GM Singapore Malaysia Bristol Myers Squibb; Vice Presidents: Linda Seah, MD, Novartis; Florence Leong, GM, sanofi aventis group ; Directors: Tom Hart, MD, AstraZeneca; Celine Ting, GM, Eisai Asia Regional Services; Sameer Savkur, Country Manager, Eli Lilly Singapore; Jorge Bartolome, MD, GlaxoSmithKline-Rx; Annie Chin, MD, Merck Sharp & Dohme; Michael Khor, GM, Pfizer; Dr David Kandela, Regional GM, Servier Singapore; and Giuseppe Leo, GM, Zuellig Pharma.

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About Singapore Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (SAPI)

The Singapore Association of Pharmaceutical Industries has 42 members comprising multinational research-based companies, local commercial companies and distribution companies within the pharmaceutical industry.

SAPI plays two key industry roles in Singapore: Firstly, it is central to the exchange of information within the industry and, collaborates with government agencies on projects, providing input and feedback on healthcare policies. Secondly, it is the main channel of communication between the industry and various local stakeholders on health and trade-related issues, including the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The pharmaceutical industry has invested more than S\$5 billion in manufacturing operations in Singapore, mostly in upstream manufacturing. In the current research and development

pipeline, the industry is working on more than 700 new medicines and vaccines for infectious diseases such as cancer, heart disease and stroke, asthma, arthritis and osteoporosis.

A Board of Directors, managing the affairs of SAPI, is made up of members elected annually from its membership.

Media Enquiries

Singapore Association of Pharmaceutical Industries

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