

## Press Release

### GIRP elects new President

*28 May 2019*

GIRP – the European Healthcare Distribution Association is delighted to announce the election of a new President.

On the occasion of GIRP's 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference, Mr Bernd Grabner has been elected to the role of President of GIRP, replacing outgoing President Mr René Jenny.

Mr Bernd Grabner takes up the position immediately for a two-year term taking over from Mr René Jenny who had been at the helm of the organisation for 14 years.

Mr René Jenny, speaking about the election, expressed his high level of confidence in his successor: "I have worked alongside Bernd for a few years now and I am confident that he is the right person for the job. He is future-orientated and has the knowledge and skills to understand issues at stake and will work hand in hand with our members and partnering stakeholders to broker the right solutions or seize opportunities. The healthcare distribution sector is at an important cross-road and I have no doubt that Bernd will lead the organisation in the right direction."

Regarding the election, Ms Monika Derecque-Pois, GIRP Director General, said: "Bernd Grabner is perfectly placed to take over the leadership of GIRP. At this time, it is important to remind ourselves and others what is needed to sustain the role and function of healthcare distributors. Bernd has been an active member of our association and on our board for years now and I am convinced that he will have the drive to take our organisation successfully into the future. Bernd has shown his ability to engage with members, policy-makers and stakeholders. I look forward to working with him."

Derecque-Pois acknowledged the outstanding contribution made to the organisation by outgoing President, Mr René Jenny, and thanked him for his leadership. "We would like to thank René for the commitment and personal investment he brought to the role of President over his term. His inclusive leadership helped us forge strong relationships with members, our stakeholders and boosted our public profile significantly. René has been integral to the important advances we have made as an organisation and we all wish him well for the future."

#### Enquiries

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#### Biography

Mr Bernd Grabner is Member of the board of Jacoby GM Pharma and Vice-President of PHAGO, the Austrian Association of Pharmaceutical full-line Wholesalers. He has also been Member of the GIRP Board since June 2015.

Mr Grabner started his studies in law and business economics in Linz in 1993. While still studying, he worked in the family-owned wholesaling company, where he was in charge of a wide range of operational tasks. Mr Grabner became member of the board of GM Pharma in 2003. Since the merger with Jacoby Pharmazeutika in July 2013, he has been member of the board of Jacoby GM Pharma and therein responsible for the divisions supplier relations, key account management for dispensing doctors and new business activities.

## About GIRP

GIRP, the European Healthcare Distribution Association, is the umbrella organisation for pharmaceutical full-line wholesalers and distributors of healthcare products and services in Europe. It represents the national associations of over 750 pharmaceutical wholesalers serving 33 European countries, as well as major international and pan-European healthcare distribution companies. GIRP members employ over 140,000 people and distribute around 15 billion packs of medicines as well as a wide range of healthcare products per year. As the vital link in healthcare, they are committed to developing and providing innovative and efficient healthcare products and services to improve health and wellbeing of patients across Europe.