



## SAVE THE DATE!

### IFPW'S 2026 CEO ROUNDTABLE

will be held April 15th & 16th  
at the offices of

**The Business Roundtable  
in Washington D.C.**

Watch for more information on event schedule  
and hotel accommodations in the coming months.

## IFPW Member Offers Logistics Services in Australia

*(Source: An article by John Bennett for EBOS Group)*

**Healthcare Logistics Australia (HCL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of IFPW member EBOS Group, has operated within the healthcare market for more than 20 years as a trusted 3PL and 4PL healthcare logistics provider.

HCL offers a wide range of healthcare logistics, including GMP grade Warehousing, Distribution, Clinical Trial logistics support, Secondary Packaging, Order to Cash management, Customer Service and more. In 2023, the company commenced operations at its 2nd purpose built pharmaceutical grade warehouse, located at Eastern Creek in Western Sydney, New South Wales and now plans to open a new Western Australian facility in Hazelmere, Perth this December.

The state-of-the-art Sydney facility features capacity for over 38,000 pallets of product requiring storage types of ambient temperature controlled (15°C-25°C), cold chain (2°C-8°C) as well as frozen, vault, high illicit value, and dangerous goods categories, to service the needs of pharmaceutical and healthcare manufacturers. HCL's focus on quality, security and



risk management ensure that the environment and features meet or exceed the needs of healthcare manufacturers.

Aligned with EBOS's Sustainability program, the Eastern Creek facility was also recently awarded a 6 Star Greenstar certification with features including water recycling, 2-Megawatt

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## In Brief...

♦ **Walgreens Boots Alliance** announced financial results for its third quarter ended May 31, 2025. Sales for the quarter increased 7.2% year-over-year to US\$39 billion (an increase of 6.9% on a constant currency basis, reflecting sales growth in the U.S. Retail Pharmacy and International segments.) Third quarter operating income was US\$52 million (which included a non-cash impairment charge related to certain long-lived assets) compared to an operating income of US\$111 million in the third quarter of 2024. Separately, Walgreens Boots Alliance shareholders have overwhelmingly approved (96% of votes cast) the company's pending acquisition by **Sycamore Partners**. In March of 2025, Walgreens agreed to be acquired by Sycamore Partners for around US\$10 billion. The transaction is expected to close in the third or fourth quarter of this year, at which time Walgreen's common stock will no longer be listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market and it will become a private company.

♦ **Merck** has agreed to acquire **Verona Pharma** and its potential blockbuster *Ohtuvayre*, a first-in-class treatment for chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD). This is the second-largest deal in biopharma in 2025, ranking behind **Johnson & Johnson's** US\$14.6 billion buyout of **Intra-Cellular**. The deal also fits into Merck's pattern of engaging in a major transaction every other year. In 2023 the company acquired **Prometheus** and its late-stage bowel disease candidate *PRA023* for US\$10.8 billion.

♦ **Cencora** has reached a distribution agreement with **Citius Oncology** for its lymphoma therapy *Lymphir*. Under the agreement, Cencora is expected to become a wholesale distributor for *Lymphir*, and builds on an existing distribution services agreement between the two companies that will broaden the distribution network and increase patient access

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## Japan Launches Public-Private Council to Create Innovation Ecosystem

*(Source: A staff article for Pharma Japan)*

Japan has launched a new high-level council to address structural challenges in its drug discovery ecosystem amid growing concerns over drug lags and losses, as well as mounting calls from the global pharmaceutical industry for greater policy stability.

The inaugural meeting of the government's Public-Private Council for Improving Drug Discovery Capabilities was held on June 26 at the Prime Minister's Office, bringing together 30 key stakeholders, including pharmaceutical trade groups, domestic and foreign venture capital firms, and government ministries.

The new council will discuss three main topics: 1) measures to strengthen Japan's drug discovery capabilities; 2) ways to ensure timely patient access to the latest medicines; and 3) the

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## IFPW Member (cont'd.)...

solar array, internal waste management, solar storage batteries, and 10 electric vehicle charging stations which help drive management of cost as well as environmental benefits.

HCL's Perth facility will be located in close proximity to Perth Airport, interstate vehicle routes, Perth's major rail head and in



close proximity to wholesalers. This new build facility will support manufacturers quality, compliance and product requirements with 10,000 pallets of capacity in ambient control, cold chain and frozen temperature ranges. The site will also have 50kW solar installed and is being built to a 5 Star Greenstar standard.

## Japan (cont'd.)...

creation of a sustainable social system that supports a virtuous cycle of investment and innovation.

At the kick-off session, it was agreed that a working group will be set up under the council this summer to begin developing concrete proposals. The first phase will center on building a sustainable innovation-investment cycle, with the proposals to be shared this fall with the Central Social Insurance Medical Council (Chuikyo) in time for the FY2026 drug pricing reform debates. Later stages will focus on bolstering Japan's R&D capabilities and improving patient access to new medicines, with a final report due out approximately May of 2026, when the council will hold the next full meeting. The aim is to reflect the outcomes of these discussions in relevant government policies and initiatives.

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba emphasized the strategic importance of the pharmaceutical industry at the meeting. "The pharmaceutical industry is a core growth sector for Japan," he stated, adding, "The working group will identify policy improvements based on conditions on the ground and existing challenges, and incorporate them into specific government policies and systems. We ask all stakeholders to explore continuous investments in making Japan a hub for drug discovery."

The working group will be comprised of representatives selected by three major industry groups, including the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA), the Pharmaceutical Research Industries and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA). Senior officials from four ministries including Cabinet Office, the

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) and others will join, along with four academic experts including Mamoru Narukawa, professor at Kitasato University School of Pharmacy. A budget examiner from the Ministry of Finance will serve as an observer.

At a press briefing after the closed-door session, Tadayuki Mizutani, Director of the Health Policy Bureau's Policy Planning Division for Pharmaceutical Industry Promotion and Medical Information Management at the MHLW, explained that the new council differs from the ministry's "public-private dialogue" series by focusing specifically on detailed policy measures.

## In Brief (cont.)

in the U.S. market

- ◆ After a years-long restructuring, **Baxter Pharmaceuticals** has appointed *Andrew Hider* as CEO. Hider replaces *José Almeida* who retired as the company's CEO earlier this year. Hider released a statement saying "I look forward to partnering with the Board and working alongside my talented future colleagues to accelerate innovation, further enhance our performance and redefine healthcare delivery while driving sustainable long-term growth."

- ◆ China's **National Medical Products Administration (NMPA)** has approved three new drugs developed by local biopharma companies, including a first-of-its-kind molecule, *ifupinostat*, to be used to treat blood cancer. The drug, developed by **BeBetter Med**, is now the first HDAC/P13K dual-targeted inhibitor approved anywhere. Other approved drugs include **Simcere's** anti-VEGF antibody *suvemcitug* used alongside chemotherapy for ovarian cancer, and **Betta Pharma's** *tibremciclib* for use with the drug *fulvestrant* in treating HR-positive HER2-negative breast cancer.

- ◆ **Regeneron** has secured approval from the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** for its multiple myeloma drug *Lynozyfic*. Treatment is approved for patients with the disease who have received at least four prior lines of therapy. The drug joins two other BCMxCD3 bispecific antibodies – **Johnson & Johnson's** *Tecvayli* and **Pfizer's** *Elrexfio*.

- ◆ The Trump Administration has renewed its previous pledge to impose tariffs on foreign-made pharmaceutical products as high as 200%. Additionally, he plans to give manufacturers at least a year to move their operations to the U.S. President *Donald Trump* stated "We're going to give [companies] about a year, a year and half to come in. After that they are going to be tarified if they have to bring the pharmaceuticals into the country."

- ◆ **Amazon** will soon use more robots than humans in its warehouses. Amazon has deployed a large number of robots in its facilities, which has automated tasks and improved productivity. Robots also assist in 75% of global deliveries. Workers are being trained for skilled roles managing the robots while developing AI-powered robots for verbal commands.

(Sources: Company Press Releases, Drug Store News, FiercePharma, Pharma Japan, PharmaVoice and Wall Street Journal)