

# Working together to provide the safest possible care for patients across the globe

In an increasingly complex healthcare environment, with the development of customised medical products, the need for technology and information sharing to aid decision making, the rising cost of services and treatments, and more empowered patients, one thing remains consistent – the clinicians, nurses, pharmacists, and others who are absolutely committed to ensuring every patient receives the best possible care. Across the case studies that have been submitted this year, we have seen exactly this, a need for global solutions for an increasingly global industry that enable the provision of the safest possible care. What the examples in this book demonstrate is that GS1 standards implementations work best when we all work together – that’s solution providers, suppliers, wholesalers and healthcare providers. And let’s not forget that the imperative is there, legislation around the world is demanding standardisation and those that are becoming compliant now are already seeing the benefits.

## 1 Our global healthcare industry needs global solutions

International organisations are increasingly seeing the opportunity provided by GS1 standards for unique identification of medical products and healthcare locations, automatic data capture using barcodes, and information sharing – for product data, transactions and traceability. Companies such as Johnson & Johnson (see page 87) are realising the opportunity that standards provide to ensure accuracy and consistency, and ultimately financial efficiency, in their supply chains.

The vital role of technology in the future of healthcare means that GS1 standards are becoming part of the future-proofing that’s taking place in many hospitals around the world. One example is the use by Kaohsiung Armed Forces in Taiwan of artificial intelligence as part of the smart medical system being introduced at their General Hospital (see page 12).

Innovation is key to delivering the smartest and the safest care, and the adaptability of global standards means they’re an important enabler to this.

## 2 GS1 standards are helping the healthcare industry to do its job and that’s provide the safest possible care

Growing the awareness of how GS1 standards improve care has to be near the top of everyone’s list of priorities when we’re potentially working with tens of thousands of hospitals worldwide and many millions of staff. If those on the front line of care delivery don’t know why they’re scanning, it’s a lot harder to integrate GS1 standards into hospital systems. That is why in Rigshospitalet in Denmark, they have a ‘star scanner’ (see page 24), because involving key stakeholders is proven to make the difference between seeing scanning as a new IT system versus seeing it as an opportunity to provide better care.

What many of the cases in this year’s reference book prove is that it is all about patient safety, whether that’s improving the safety and traceability of infant feeds at Children’s Health Ireland at Temple Street University Hospital in Dublin (see page 32) or the unique identification of pharmaceutical products at the Regional Hospital, Poznań (see page 46). Every one of those implementations requires the awareness and understanding of each member of staff involved. And this doesn’t just apply to the clinical application in hospitals, but also to the technology used to ensure the supply chain is accurate and that the product is appropriately identified and barcoded. This is important to ensure products in hospitals and pharmacies are available for the patient when needed.

**SAVE  
TIME AND  
RESOURCES**

