

# FROM THE BOARD

Xavier Molins has been chairing Access VetMed since September 2023. Find out through this interview, what is his vision of the generic veterinary industry and what are his goals and interests for our association.



## **What does it mean for you to assume the position of Chair within our association?**

Chairing Access VetMed is undeniably a privilege. In that respect, I have to say I am deeply appreciative of the unwavering assistance from our dedicated Board and the tireless support from our Technical Director. In addition, collaborating with colleagues across the various Working Groups and Task Forces is always a source of pleasure. Being part of Access VetMed often feels akin to being part of a close-knit family!

In essence, assuming the position of Chair of Access VetMed is an honor, a commitment to serving our members, moving our industry forward, and effecting positive change in the lives of animals and society at large.



*My position at Access VetMed allows me to represent and advocate for the interests of the Animal Health generic industry in Europe, steering the strategic direction of our association, establishing clear goals and objectives, and rallying stakeholders towards a shared vision of promoting animal welfare and access to affordable veterinary medicines.*



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## **What milestones would you highlight in the recent history of Access VetMed?**

When I initially joined Access VetMed (EGGVP at the time), approximately 15 years ago, we were a relatively small consortium of companies representing the Animal Health generic Industry in Europe. However, with the commitment of those founding companies and the excellent leadership of the Board at that time, our Association has experienced significant growth, expanding to nearly 30 companies across much of the European continent.

Most importantly, Access VetMed has successfully established itself as a recognized stakeholder within the relevant EU Competent Authorities, giving us a sense of being listened to.

Last but not least, the investment in and implementation of a robust communications strategy, coupled with our own Market analysis and the rebranding of our organization, have also resulted in a notable increase in the number of stakeholders showing interest in our work. As a matter of fact, I distinctly recall that by the end of 2018, our LinkedIn following barely surpassed 200; now, however, that number has surged to over 1.200.

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## **What are in your opinion the main challenges of the veterinary generics industry?**

With the introduction of Veterinary Medicines Regulation 2019/6, there was optimism that administrative burden could be reduced, and costs streamlined. However, two years later, we are still far from achieving that goal. There are certain areas of the new Regulation where burdens certainly persist.

In terms of generic penetration, the extension of the periods of data protection, and most importantly, the cumulative data protection, will not play in favor of the generic industry. Additionally, we are still very concerned that the lack of transparency could potentially result in many investments from the generic industry not yielding a reasonable return.



#### **How can the Association contribute to the companies to overcome them?**

Access VetMed fosters collaboration and partnerships among our member companies and other stakeholders. By pooling the adequate resources, expertise, and capabilities in Working Groups and Task Forces, we can collectively tackle those common challenges, thereby enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of the Animal Health generic industry in Europe.



#### **What are the main lines of action that the Association will undertake this year?**

We will focus our main efforts in making sure any outstanding Implementing and Delegated acts from Regulation 2019/6 are aligned with the mission of our Association. In addition, we are aiming to release our 3rd edition of the Animal Health generic Market analysis with the contribution and input of a newly created, motivated and experienced Task Force.



#### **How do you visualize Access VetMed in the medium term?**

Staying abreast of regulatory changes is key for our members, so Access VetMed will inevitably and continuously monitor evolving regulations to ensure they are aligned with our mission. Having said that, there is a growing trend towards preventive healthcare in veterinary medicine, so I personally believe our association will also need to align to areas such as Animal wellness, vaccination, parasite control, and nutraceuticals.

Access VetMed will also need to continue building strong relationships with the relevant stakeholders to foster trust and loyalty. In that respect, the organization of educational workshops and participation in community programs and regional events should be an option to be considered by our Association. I also envisage our association establishing partnerships with other European associations and groups that may share common vision and goals. In the long term, Access VetMed can integrate new members from those geographical regions in Europe where we still have a gap (e.g. Nordic countries).

## **UP CLOSE**



**A dream...** Travel to Lapland and be able to see an Aurora borealis

**A movie...** The name of the Rose

**A melody...** Don't you (Forget about me) from Simple Minds

**A book...** Lord of the Flies

**An animal...** Dog

**In your spare time...** Mountain climbing