Good afternoon everyone. My name is Yasu Hasegawa, President of the Takeda Pharmaceutical Company.

It is truly a pleasure to be here to honor the outstanding accomplishments of our many industry leaders.

Firstly, my congratulations to the HBA Rising Stars; you have a great future ahead of you.

Congratulations, too, to Barbara and Alex for the many ways that you have contributed to building this organization and developing its members.

However, my focus for today is to introduce and honor our 20th Woman of the Year, Dr Deborah Dunsire.

I met Deborah for the first time almost two years ago now and so began a dialogue that brought our two companies ultimately into one.

Takeda is Japan’s largest pharmaceutical company. It has a proud history of providing medicines for over two hundred and twenty eight years. As we have grown, our company emerged as a global player but we have remained firmly grounded over centuries in the values we call Takeda-ism.

For our company, integrity is manifested in fairness to all we deal with perseverance to achieve demanding goals and relentless honesty in all our actions is the foundation of our business.
Through it, we build our business upon relationships of mutual trust which allows us to challenge one another to grow.

When I first met Deborah, I knew right away that I was meeting with someone who embodied those values upon which Takeda has been built; a leader who is a role model for innovation, collaboration, empowerment and drive!

Deborah is an exceptional visionary, taking on one of the greatest challenges as she leads Millennium: The Takeda Oncology Company toward our vision as we aspire to cure cancer.

Deborah’s honesty and fairness has helped foster a culture at Millennium that has earned the organization a top ranking as The Best Place to Work by *The Scientist* and *Science* Magazines and *The Boston Globe* just last year.

She is a leader who inspires others and has helped hundreds of people grow in their careers through her mentoring. She is a leader whose passion is to bring forward medicines that transform the lives of patients.

Personally, I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award.

It truly is an honor for me to be here as Takeda celebrates with all of you the HBA Woman of the Year.

I present to you Deborah Dunsire.

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