

Preface

Almost 25 years have gone since we established the expression “lean production” for a set of Japanese techniques which changed the whole competitive landscape of the automotive industry in the 1990s. This in turn led to fundamental changes in how production is managed in industry after industry.

Back in 2006, I wrote the foreword to the book *Operational Excellence in the Pharmaceutical Industry* just as the pharmaceutical industry began its own lean journey, which showed that “lean thinking” knows no industry barriers. I’m glad that the story continued, and if I look at some of the approaches described in the current book, I see an Industry that puts a lot of sophistication and resources in its journey towards Operational Excellence. It has also finally realized that sustainability comes with people and not with tools.

This reminds me of our own lean journey from *The Machine That Changed the World* to *Lean Thinking* and *Lean Solutions* and to establishing the Lean Global Network (www.leanglobal.org). If pharmaceutical companies want to stay ahead of competition, they should have a look at the new evidence presented in this book and draw their conclusions!

Lean Enterprise Academy, UK

Prof. Dr. Daniel T. Jones

<http://www.springer.com/978-3-642-35160-0>

Leading Pharmaceutical Operational Excellence
Outstanding Practices and Cases

Friedli, Th.; Basu, P.; Bellm, D.; Werani, J. (Eds.)

2013, IX, 541 p. 263 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-35160-0