

Ornella Barra

Ornella Barra is Chief Operating Officer, International of Walgreens Boots Alliance. She started out in Italy as a pharmacist, growing into a top businesswoman at the helm of the International segment of a leading company in retail pharmacy and health & wellbeing.

Born in Italy, now of Monegasque nationality, Ornella Barra graduated from the University of Genoa with a degree in pharmacy and embarked on a career in the healthcare sector. She started out as a pharmacist, first managing and then setting up her own pharmacy. In 1984 she founded the pharmaceutical wholesaler Di Pharma. In 1986, Di Pharma was taken over by Alleanza Salute Italia.

During the various mergers that led to the creation of Walgreens Boots Alliance in 2014, she has held several roles as member of the Boards of Directors of various companies (both listed and privately held) of the Group.

As Chief Operating Officer, International she oversees WBA's businesses outside of the U.S., including Boots UK and other pharmacy-led health and beauty retail businesses in Europe, Latin America and Asia, as well as WBA's pharmaceutical wholesale operation in Germany and the No7 Beauty Company. She is also Chair of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee.

Ornella is a member of the Board of Directors of Cencora (formerly known as AmerisourceBergen) and sits on the Board of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers. She is an Honorary Professor at the University of Nottingham, School of Pharmacy, and a member of the Advisory Council of SDA School of Management, Bocconi University.