



1912 • 2012
100 YEARS OF
ADVANCING
PHARMACY
WORLDWIDE

PRESS RELEASE, 3 May 2012, FIP Office, The Hague, Netherlands

First Global Symposium for Pharmacy Technicians during FIP Centennial Congress

For the first time in Pharmacy history the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is hosting a Symposium for Pharmacy Technicians and Pharmacy Support Workforce on 3-4 October 2012 during its Centennial Congress in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The purpose of this Symposium is to consolidate efforts of all members of the pharmacy workforce and to foster a holistic approach to bettering patient care. FIP believes a platform for international pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy support personnel to talk, educate one another and interact is necessary for providing and evolving exceptional pharmaceutical care in all practice settings, regardless of the vast differences in education and training around the world.

The inaugural Symposium will provide pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and members of the pharmacy support workforce valuable tools to further develop skills in these areas and have a greater positive effect on pharmacy functioning and patient care. This will be examined through three sessions, addressed by both pharmacy technicians and pharmacists in an effort to further bridge the gap between pharmacy personnel:

- **Role of the Pharmacy Technician Worldwide**
The role of the pharmacy technicians is very different in the various countries. What can pharmacy technicians learn from each other? How does national legislation both help and hinder their role? The session will start with results from a global survey and include regional cases (see below).
- **Education for the Pharmacy Support Staff**
Across the world pharmacy support workforce training varies from certificate programs to diploma. How does the level of education impact responsibilities of pharmacy technicians in the pharmacy? Different models and methods to be discussed.
- **Patient Safety - how can technicians best support patient safety initiatives in the pharmacy?**
Pharmacy technicians are involved in many tasks within the pharmacy including dispensing and OTC counseling. How can pharmacy technicians decrease medication errors and improve patient safety in these areas? Links between credentialing of pharmacy personnel and patient safety and pinpointing consistent sources of errors will be discussed.

For the latest programme updates and to register please visit the FIP Congress website at http://fip.org/amsterdam2012/pharmacy_technicians_symposium

All topics will be considered from an international perspective with speakers from all corners of the globe. After highlighting cases from several countries, a regional overview will be given by speakers addressing the biggest challenges in North and South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Global Survey

To define the different roles in various countries, the Symposium will start with presenting the results from 'the Global Pharmacy Support Workforce survey'. This will give a global

President
Dr M. Buchmann
Switzerland
General Secretary
Mr A.J.M. Hoek
Netherlands
Immediate Past President
Prof. K.K. Midha
Canada

Scientific Secretary
Prof H de Jong
Netherlands
Professional Secretary
Prof. H.R. Manasse, Jr.
USA
Vice Presidents:
Mr J.A. Bell
Australia

Mr T. Björk
Sweden
Mr N. Kristensen
Denmark
Dr C. Peña
Spain
Dr M.L. Rocci
USA

Prof. P.J. Schneider
USA
Mr P.D. Sheth
India
Prof. G.T. Tucker
UK
Dr R. Vaillancourt
Canada

Chairman of the Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Prof. M. Hashida
Japan
Chairman of the Board of Pharmaceutical Practice
Mr A.L. Gray
South Africa

Fédération
Internationale
Pharmaceutique

International
Pharmaceutical
Federation

Andries Bickerweg 5
P.O. Box 84200
2508 AE The Hague
The Netherlands
-
T +31 (0)70 302 19 70
F +31 (0)70 302 19 99
fip@fip.org
-
www.fip.org



picture of the broader non pharmacist workforce involved in medicines supply. All who participated in the survey were asked to indicate the names and expected competences of the Pharmacy Support Workforce cadres in their country, their training and regulatory requirements. The survey seeks to better understand the names and roles of non-pharmacist personnel involved in the procurement, distribution, supply, and dispensing of medications. The results are expected to show the large variety of non-pharmacist workforce cadres and their roles across the globe. It is anticipated that the results of the survey will help us better understand global similarities and differences. The higher goal is to contribute to effective planning and strengthen of health systems by understanding and responding to the local needs of countries in regard to the Pharmacy Support Workforce. The survey itself can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/pharmacysupportworkforcereview>

Poster presentations

In addition, pharmacy technicians will have the opportunity to submit abstracts for posters to be presented at the Conclusion of the second day, highlighting work and research being undertaken by this valuable sector.

Final Report

After the Symposium, FIP will produce and disseminate a document highlighting results of the Symposium and suggested ways forward that were discussed in the meeting.

FIP is very pleased to host this pivotal event for the first time at the Centennial Conference in Amsterdam.

About FIP

Founded in 1912, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is the global federation of national associations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists and is in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). Through its 127 Member Organisations FIP represents and serves more than two million practitioners and scientists around the world.

FIP's mission is to improve global health by advancing pharmacy practice and science to enable better discovery, development, access to and safe use of appropriate, cost-effective, quality medicines worldwide.

For more information or questions please contact Myriah Lesko: myriah@fip.org