



Health and Medicines Information Section Annual Report 2023

Aligned with the FIP mission and vision, HaMIS has focussed on health and medicines information across verbal, written, and digital platforms, catering to healthcare professionals, pharmacists, patients, caregivers, and those seeking knowledge about medicines and health. Aligned with this principle, the section was leading the update of the [FIP statement](#) of policy calling for the development and adoption of national strategies to the development and communication of Medicines Information. A particular focus on governments worldwide being urged to regulate against medicines misinformation and emphasizes the role of pharmacists in leading the development and communication of Medicines Information was adopted as part of the final statement approved during the 81st FIP Congress in Brisbane.

On the other end of the spectrum, Health literacy is a known social determinant of health. Fostering opportunities to address gaps in pharmacy practice related to health literacy has been another focus for series of our activities under FIP DGs 10, 13, 18, and 19. Those included:

- Leading BPP special project on improving written discharge medication information for culturally and linguistically diverse communities – led by Dr Vivien Tong and Prof. Parisa Aslani. Data from the interviews conducted to date have been analysed and the written discharge medication information (WDMI) template(s) has been subsequently refined based on the pharmacist feedback received thus far. Further refinement of the template(s) may be needed once data saturation has been reached for the interviews, in preparation for when face-to-face user testing of the WDMI templates is ongoing.
- Representing the view of the pharmacist at the launch of the [Council of Europe Health Literacy Guide](#) that delves into the evidence base and offers best practices and health interventions designed to enhance health literacy. Health literacy represents a crucial aspect of building trust in health systems and is a unique opportunity for pharmacist to impact on health outcomes by ensuring equitable access to healthcare (DG10).
- Continuing to award the HaMIS Stipend, aligned seamlessly with the FIP development goals, particularly in fostering equity and equality (DG10), enhancing leadership development (DG6) access, and promoting academic capacity building (DG1). This year, we received 90 applications, an increase from 66, representing 31 countries, up from 26 in 2022. Following a decision by the HaMIS ExCO, the stipend was granted to Frances Lois U Ngo from the Philippines. Currently serving as an Assistant Professor at the College of Pharmacy, University of the Philippines, Frances submitted an abstract to the Congress on "Perception of Patients in a University-based Drug Information Service on Medication Safety"—a topic highly pertinent to the section and reflective of FIP DG 19.

- Continuing with the special themes for our Section Newsletter, highlighting contributions from our members advancing the science and the practice into the novel areas of interest in health and medicines information, outlining major trends for the profession.
- Providing Congress educational program (DG5, DG6, DG10, DG11, DG20, GD21) focussing on: 1) deployment of digital tools in supply chain management as a practice improvement to help manage shortage of medicines; 2) warning of the potential for the digital divide becoming a health and access divide too if digital health literacy is not addressed in parallel to developing new online solutions; 3.) discussing the potential for a novel roles for pharmacists in the Metaverse. Another focus was the return of the short oral presentations, were after reviewing several quality presentations we selected 4 research topics that represented both novelty and quality in the research methodology in health and medicines information.
- Assessing the impact of FIP statements of policy on developing national guidelines and policies, using as a case study the FIP Policy statement of impact of medicines on driving, adopted more than a decade ago by our section. The results of this research are available [here](#).

Goals in 2024:

- **Goal #1: Section led BPP special project on health literacy.** Including setting up a practice research program and collaboration on health literacy with the FIP Foundation
- **Goal #2: Section Program for FIP Congress in Cape Town,** including elections.
- **Goal #3: Capacity building for the Section,** including establishing clear practice, science and academic/workforce capacity building strategies reflecting the main pillars of the FIP.