



Industrial Pharmacy Section Annual Report 2023

In October 2021 IPS started a BPP-sponsored project called “**Industrial Pharmacists in Industry**”, aimed to determine what is the "added value " of pharmacists, promote the employment of, and the role of, the pharmacist within the pharmaceutical industry, completed in 2022.

After submitting its report to BPP, IPS decided to continue it in 2023 (self-funded) for additional analysis of the collected data, concluding that training pharmacists add value to companies:

- by recruiting students from universities, with solid background, and ability to understand medicines-related problems and cooperate with professionals from all related areas.
- by providing continuing education to pharmacists and advocating for global harmonization, so they can perform high at all stages of medicines life cycle.

Companies look for professionals with systemic vision, open-mindedness, adaptability, interpersonal skills, global knowledge and transversal competences to make the difference. Over 80 % of respondents believe that there are functions that can be best performed by a pharmacist, such as: Supply Chain management, Pharmaceutical Technology, Forensic Pharmacy, GMP, Quality Control, Regulatory Affairs, Formulation and QbD, among others.

The study also showed that:

Pharmaceutical education in most countries is geared towards careers in community or hospital pharmacy (57.37%), against 32.63% of the technological studies.

There weren't relevant changes in the pharmaceutical curriculum in the last decade. Relevant topics to a career in pharmaceutical industry are not properly addressed at university – technological advancements, data integrity, quality management system (QMS), just to mention a few.

Status of **2023 IPS Goals** (set in the last Annual Report):

- Goal #1: Social Media: to increase number of followers of IPS webpages by 10%

As of February 2024, the IPS page on LinkedIn has 1553 followers, compared to the 1019 followers noted in February 2023, a **52.40% increase** in the last 12 months. Additionally, the IPS Facebook

account recorded 1,600 followers by February 2024, while the LinkedIn platform remained the most used social media by pharmaceutical professionals willing to interact online with IPS.

- Goal #2: Special Project “Industrial Pharmacists in Industry”: to progress the BPP Special Project lead by IPS to next stage.

The final report of the report was submitted to BPP in 2022. Results and conclusions were shared with FIPeD in 2023, who is taking this over. In parallel, IPS remains in contact with FIPeD to continue identifying gaps and develop plans to close them. Joint efforts started in 2023 and shall continue in 2024.

- Goal #3: GMP Training: to organize a continuing education training on Good Manufacturing Practices at the 2023 FIP Congress (Brisbane).

The IPS Workshop titled “Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) – Where are we now and what does the future look like?” took part of the agenda of FIP Congress (Brisbane) on Saturday 23 September 2023. A total of 23 professionals participated in the full-day event, where 7 international speakers shared their insights about current PICs GMP guidelines, Digital Transformation, Robotics and Automation, and debated a case study.

- FIP’s vision and mission, in the sense that by providing relevant training to industrial pharmacists from different parts of the world, IPS enables the advance of pharmaceutical practice in different regions and promotes the access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable medicines and health technologies across the globe.

Goals in 2024:

- Goal #1: To develop the 2nd edition of IPS GMP training at FIP Congress in FIP Congress (Cape Town), with higher number of participants, and aiming to settle this as an annual event in IPS calendar.
- Goal #2: To reactivate the IPS account in X platform (former Twitter), aiming to increase the IPS participation in social media.
- Goal #3: To follow up the number of participants in IPS webinars (FIP Digital Events) during 2024, aiming to develop actions to convert these participations into IPS memberships.