

65th FIP Congress Cairo, Egypt



Medicines for all – a human right

This was the theme for the 2005 World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences held in Cairo, Egypt from 2 to 8 September, and attended by over 2,000 pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists from 92 countries. At the Opening Ceremony, the Egyptian Health Minister, Professor Dr. Mohamed Awad Tag El-Din, welcomed the theme but also pressed the point, which resonates with FIP policy, that medicines are special products, not to be treated as ordinary articles of commerce.

Presidential address.

The President of FIP, Mr. Jean Parrot, in a thoughtful and well received address at the opening ceremony, reflected on events over the past twelve months that had had an impact on the global community.

Following the shocking devastation caused by the tsunami that hit South East Asia on December 26, 2004, the need for safe, medicines of high quality was immediately apparent. People all over the world responded immediately and generously and gifts of medicines in very large quantities were made. Unfortunately, as so often has happened in the past, many medicines were allowed to accumulate in airports, in unfavourable storage conditions. The problem was compounded by the fact that there was a dearth of people with the appropriate qualifications to receive the medicines in areas of great need. This led to these generously gifted supplies being held indefinitely in customs zones.

Mr Parrot also expressed the need to assess the outcomes of the WHO's "three by five" initiative, launched in 2003, with the target of treating 3 million of those affected by HIV/AIDS (about half of those in actual need of treatment), by the end of 2005 in 49 developing countries. The WHO initiative had been a catalyst. Although the target was not likely to be met in some countries, it would be in others and headway had been made everywhere. The initiative had placed the focus on access to medicines, particularly factors limiting access to medicines for HIV/AIDS, as well as the severe shortages of healthcare workers in so many countries.

Also during the opening ceremony, the highest scientific award of FIP, the *Host-Madsen Medal* was presented to Professor Stanley (Bob) Davis, UK. The *FIP Distinguished Practice Award* was presented to Mr. Joao Silveira (Portugal) and the *FIP Lifetime Achievement in Pharmaceutical Practice Award* to Dr. Hans-Gunter Friese (Germany).

FIP Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Mr. Kal Chatto (USA) and Mr. John Ferguson (UK) in recognition of the service they had given to FIP over many years.

And for the first time ever, individual members were designated FIP Fellows:

- Dr. Dominique Duchene (France)
- Mr. Keith Johnson (USA)
- Dr. Hans Junginger (Germany)
- Mrs. Jane Nicholson (UK)
- Dr. Hiroshi Terada (Japan)

Council Meetings.

At the Council meeting on 3 September, ***Dr. Henri Menase (USA) was elected Professional Secretary of FIP*** in succession to Colin Hitchings (UK), whose term of office came to an end at the conclusion of the Cairo Congress. Warm tributes were paid to Mr. Hitchings, both at the Council meeting and at a function hosted by the board of Pharmaceutical Practice, for the way in which he had discharged his responsibilities as Professional Secretary throughout his term of office. Mr. Hitchings had previously been Chairman of the Hospital Pharmacy Section and had for a short period had taken on the role of general secretary during an interregnum.

The practice programme and CPD

A growing and welcome feature of the Congress is the number of sessions which carry accreditation for Continuing Professional Development purposes. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. Sessions in the Congress programme with an ACPE number were cosponsored by ASHP and carried continuing education credits for the number of hours indicated in the programme. These sessions were also accredited for recognition in Portugal, Germany, Japan and France by the relevant CPD agencies. Thus attendance and active participation in identified sessions at a FIP Congress has practical as well as professionally rewarding benefits.