



**DR KAMAL K MIDHA, Address  
WHPC Regulation  
May, 2008**

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Kamal Midha. I am the President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation. It is an honour for me to speak with you on behalf of the World Health Professions Alliance and the World Confederation for Physical Therapy. In this capacity I want to warmly welcome you to the FIRST World Health Professions Conference on Regulation and particularly extend the welcome to colleagues who are connected to this conference by a live video connection we have set up to be inclusive.

The term regulation has been defined as “a rule, a law or other order prescribed by authority especially to regulate conduct”. It is a prescription, a regulating principle, a governing direction or a precept.

This definition is a matter-of-fact view of regulation as a concept. It represents a necessary truth if regulations are to do what they set out to do: to provide a set of enforceable standards for a specific purpose. This first World Health Professions Conference on regulation, however, has a far broader scope and much higher purpose:

- to bring together an international forum of multi-disciplinary health professionals to discuss how regulation is impacting professional practice
- to inquire about how the different models of regulation are protecting society
- to ask how regulation should change in the future, and if so, how and why
- and to probe how this will ultimately affect healthcare on a global level.

Within our professions, each of us is centered – some may say grounded – on the skills and knowledge that define and distinguish our professions from others. This is so whether our profession be within the realm of medicines, diagnostics, direct patient care, oral health or physical rehabilitation. And yet I am confident in saying that we all strive to be *focused* on the ultimate benefactor of our work – **the patient**. This patient centered approach creates an awareness of the greater purpose of our practices. This approach demands a realization of all that affects patient care – from immediate, direct contact to higher level regulation.

We believe that is why this meeting is of such great potential. It offers us the invaluable opportunity to connect in an inter-professional and international forum to discuss healthcare regulation on many different levels.

For the most part, we are all aware of the history of professional self regulation. There has been a long-standing account of successful government lobbying by professionals to implement appropriate standards of practice and ethical guidelines for those wishing to call themselves by a specific professional title.

At present, however, healthcare professionals are facing many different and emerging challenges. For example:

- Practice settings are diversifying in both location and multi-disciplinary collaboration
- Patient and professional demographics are shifting the needs vs. services axis
- and globalization and increased access to health information by patients are changing the pressures and expectations under which we as health professionals work.

In light of these challenging changes, the World Health Professions Conference on Regulation will focus throughout these next two days on three main themes. We hope to draw conclusions based on:

- models of health professional regulation
- regulatory body governance and performance
- and trade in services, and its implications.

Speakers have been sought out who exemplify an inter-professional focus. They also represent the diversity of our organizations, all our professions, and each continent. The expertise of our attendees will also be displayed in the Poster Session.

As healthcare professionals, we sometimes consider ourselves to be the instruments on the regulation stage. But as any good instrument, we are not meant to be passive, silent bystanders. I encourage all of us to make the most of this First World Health Professions Conference on Regulation Discover how we may best make our collective yet unique voices heard. Our input is critical for translating regulation into patient care. We must take our place in the advancement of both together.

Finally on behalf of my colleague Presidents from the WMA, ICN, FDI and WCPT, I wish you a fruitful conference and satisfying deliberations. Your contributions are critical.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now a great pleasure to introduce to you our key note speaker of the conference Dr Carissa Etienne, Assistant Director General of the World Health Organisation. Dr Carissa F. Etienne assumed her role as Assistant Director-General for Health Systems and Services in February 2008. Prior to that, she was the Assistant Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, which is the Secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and of the American Regional Office of WHO.

A national of Dominica, Dr Etienne began her career as a medical officer at the Princess Margaret Hospital in her country, where she eventually became the Chief Medical Officer. Throughout her career, she has gained extensive knowledge and experience in various aspects of health management, health systems and health-care delivery, including management of essential drugs, human resource management for primary health care and the integration of health programmers and systems.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are much honored to have the Assistant Director General for Health Systems and Services to address Health Needs: The Role of Professionals. Dr. Eitenne will speak to the Issues of the capacity and capability required to deliver access to quality healthcare. Dr. Eitenne you have the floor.

Thank you Dr Etienne for your wonderful address. You have stressed to the compliance of Primary Healthcare, to develop robust health of the populace, identified the issues facing universal healthcare and stressed the importance of taskshifting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As this conference is organised by 5 global health professional organizations, we have divided the tasks of chairs and co-chairs amongst the elected officers of these 5 health professional organizations. You can see, even hear we display great team work. The next session will be chaired by the presidents of the World Dental Federation FDI and the International Council of Nurses.

FDI – President: Dr Burton Conrod

ICN – President: Dr Hiroko Minami