



Promoting a Tobacco Free Future Pharmacy Students Take Action

A Joint Statement by the
International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF)
and the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA)

Currently tobacco use is implicated in the deaths of one in ten adults worldwide. By 2030, this proportion is expected to rise to one in six deaths, or ten million people - more than any other single cause. Until recently, this epidemic of chronic disease and premature death mainly affected developed countries, but nowadays is rapidly shifting to the developing world. The situation has become so critical that tobacco dependence is now recognised as a condition in the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Classification of Diseases, requiring a complex and difficult treatment approach to overcome.

IPSF and EPSA, with a combined membership of over half a million pharmacy students worldwide, will work actively to increase the awareness of the role of pharmacists in promoting a tobacco free future. Both organisations will also encourage pharmacy students to encourage their peers not to use tobacco containing products.

This joint commitment is based on the *WHO Mandate in Public Health* and on the *FIP Statement of Policy on the Role of the Pharmacist in Promoting a Tobacco Free Future*. As future health care providers, pharmacy students should take a proactive role in developing initiatives designed to target the increasing burden of tobacco use. Pharmacy students and pharmacists should consider providing assistance to others to overcome this condition as part of their professional responsibility.

IPSF and EPSA encourage their members to:

- Develop training programmes to educate pharmacy students about their future role in patient counselling about smoking cessation, taking into consideration that most undergraduate pharmacy curricula do not include specific information on smoking cessation counselling.
- Raise awareness of the health problems associated with tobacco use among high school students, university students and the general public by conducting the local level campaigns such as the IPSF Tobacco Alert Campaign and EPSA Health Campaigns.


- Ensure that faculties of pharmacy are tobacco free environments by implementing the *IPSF Tobacco Free Pharmacy Schools* project.
- Encourage pharmacy students to become role models and pharmacy students' associations to develop internal policies prohibiting tobacco use at their events.
- Participate in national and international coalitions against tobacco use.

IPSF and EPSA will work towards adoption of the *Code of Practice on Tobacco Control for Health Professional Organizations*, and promote the principles contained in the code of practice to members associations and partner organisations.

IPSF and EPSA recognise that pharmacy students, as role models and future members of the health care team, have a crucial role in promoting cessation of tobacco use. Collaboration with other health care students and professional associations will help ensure that we achieve a tobacco free future.



Simon Bell
IPSF President 2003-04



Radu Birsan
EPSA Vice President 2004-05