

## 62<sup>nd</sup> FIP Congress Nice, France



The 2002 Annual Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences " FIP's 62nd World Congress " took place in Nice, France from 31 August to 5 September, focusing on the theme of *Safe Systems - Safe Treatment - Safe Patients*.

More than 2500 pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists from 95 countries swayed to the Can-Can and applauded stirring orations at the grand opening of the congress. The audience included representatives from 17 new member organisations officially admitted to FIP at the Congress – a record number of admissions in any one year since FIP's founding 90 years ago! FIP welcomes the new member organisations from Belize, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Guinea, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Sudan and anticipates their active contribution to world pharmacy.

" I think the time has come for a reality check within our profession" . These were the words used by the outgoing President of the FIP, Dr. Peter Kielgast, in his address at the opening ceremony of the Nice Congress. He was referring to pharmaceutical care and making the point that, in spite of the soundness of the concept and the enthusiasm of the pharmaceutical profession, it was still not an integral part of any health care system. He added that without a covenant with patients and payers, pharmaceutical care would not work. He urged a more business-like approach to the concept, to bring it to fruition. The profession, he said, had to come to terms with the fact that pharmacy is increasingly governed by corporate ownership models. He also encouraged the abandonment of protective measures and an alliance with the life science industry, which he invited to see the " front office pharmacist as a partner, not as one who can be squeezed for a few more cents on filling a prescription."

Dr Kielgast went on to predict that a powerful combination of IT and gene technology will drive development in health care in the years to come, calling for a therapeutic leadership role to be filled. The process of drugs in use will consume so much resources, that no single profession will be left alone to do it. Collaborative models will have to be implemented, but providing leadership of the process is something else. There is no profession better prepared to initiate leadership than pharmacy.

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and former president of Costa Rica, Dr Oscar Arias Sánchez delivered a moving and inspirational oration, pointing out the need for a new – Marshall plan – for the world – s poor calling on pharmacists and pharmaceutical sciences to heed to their highest ideals in the building and

sustaining of healthy populations worldwide. Redirecting 5% of what is spent in the world on weapons and soldiers over ten years, would be sufficient to guarantee basic education, health care and nutrition, potable water and sanitation to all the world's people. How did this relate to pharmacists gathered in Nice for a congress? " Quite simply" , he said, " before you are professionals, you are citizens of your respective countries and as such you have both the ability and the responsibility to make these issues known to your authorities if you are moved by them. At the same time I want to address you in your professional capacity too and challenge you to think about how your own work is, or could be, benefiting the world's poor.". The French Minister of Health, Jean-Francois Mattei also addressed the audience, stressing the importance of the pharmacist's role in the health care team.

At the Council Meeting, Mr Jean Parrot, President of the Ordre des Pharmaciens de France, was elected the new FIP President. Mr Parrot is the first French President of FIP and will serve for 4 years. In 1994, Mr Parrot created a Working Group on AIDS and Drug Addiction. In 1997 the role of pharmacists in this field was acknowledged in a Joint Declaration between FIP and WHO (World Health Organization). Representatives of the FIP Working Group and WHO then decided to work together and draft a proposal for a concrete way forward for pharmacists in AIDS care and prevention. The draft modules resulting from the FIP/WHO Project on HIV/AIDS were discussed at this congress. The materials produced in 2002 will be field tested and approved by the participating organisations during 2003 before being disseminated worldwide.

Prof. Dick Tromp was elected as the new Chairman of the FIP Board of Pharmaceutical Practice. Dr. John Gans (USA), Mr Howard Rice (Israel) and Prof Kamal Midha (Canada) were re-elected as Vice Presidents for a second term of office of four years and Mrs Linda Stone (Great Britain) and Mr Oscar Bruce (Ghana) were elected as Vice Presidents for the first time.

Dr. Nils-Olof (Nippe) Strandqvist, the czar of Good Pharmacy Practice pictured far right below, received the [André Bédât Award](#) for his outstanding contribution to the profession and to the FIP over many years. [Lifetime Achievement Awards](#) in Pharmaceutical Sciences were presented to Dr Pierre Potier (France), pictured left, and Prof. Hiroshi Terada (Japan), on the right. The Awards, given to "individuals who have, over many years, contributed to the development of pharmaceutical sciences" were presented by Dr Dieter Steinbach, Chairman of the FIP Foundation for Education and Research. Nigel Hughes (Ireland) was announced as the winner of the 1st [Young Pharmacists/Pharmaceutical Scientists Award](#) for Professional Innovation. The aim of this new award is to promote innovation in the profession of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences through creative projects addressing a specific issue or a problem. Nigel Hughes developed a project on smoking cessation e-learning for pharmacists.

Over six hundred posters on pharmaceutical science and practice-related research were also presented (right) and provided excellent opportunities for discussion and the sharing of experiences through-out the days.

The need for a realistic approach to difficult topics was the theme for many congress sessions. The scientific programme highlighted New Vaccines and Vaccination Approaches, Frontiers in Oligonucleotide and Gene Therapy as well as The Role of Imaging in Drug Development and Monitoring Patient Drug Therapy. International Harmonisation of Quality Standards for Herbal Drugs was the theme of one of the symposia organised jointly by the Boards of Pharmacy Practice and Pharmaceutical Science.

FIP's role in creating and maintaining world standards in pharmacy was highlighted by Council's adoption of a Statement of Professional Standards on Continuing Professional Development.

## **COUNCIL STATEMENTS**

### **New Statement Adopted by FIP Council in Nice**

One of FIP's major tasks is to set world standards for pharmacy and pharmaceutical science. This year, FIP Council adopted the Statement of Professional Standards on Continuing Professional Development.

A definition of the different types of FIP statements can be found [here](#). To see the statements of principle and professional standards adopted by FIP in previous years, please click [here](#).

### **FIP Statement of Professional Standards:**

#### **Continuing Professional Development**

Maintaining competence throughout a career during which new and challenging professional responsibilities will be encountered, is a fundamental ethical requirement for all health professionals. The FIP Statement of Professional Standards on Continuing Professional Development establishes a framework within which this obligation can be met.