News and Updates

Abstracts, presentations and photos from the 2010 FIP Congress in Lisbon, Portugal are now available to all FIP Members in the Library of the Members Only part of the website. The Members Only login area is **http://www.fip.org/www/index.php?page=login_members&redirect=mo_im_library**. Click **http://www.fip.org/www/index.php?page=login_members&redirect=&action=recover&arguments=** if you have forgotten your login information.

The Taskforce is hosting a side meeting at the **Second Global Forum on Human Resources for Health** taking place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 25-29th January 2011. In addition, a case story we submitted entitled, **'Quality Assurance in Education: A cornerstone for strengthening the pharmacy workforce'** will be presented during the conference. As you may be aware, the FIP Pharmacy Education Taskforce was launched at the First Global Forum in Kampala, Uganda, in 2008. So we are very excited to be involved in the second forum and to be able to share all the work we've achieved since then! More information can be found at **http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/forum/2011/en**/. Registration to the forum is by invitation only.

Based the continued interest raised during the global education consultations, the Taskforce is developing a fourth domain on the **"Pharmacy Support Workforce,"** which will focus on a needs-based approach to non-professional pharmacy cadres. More details to follow soon.

Conference Report

Prof Ian Bates, Director of the Taskforce, was invited to speak at the First Asia Pacific Pharmacy Education Workshop earlier this month. He has sent the information below about the conference.

Management and Science University (MSU), Malaysia, United Nation University (UNU) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) were joint hosts for the pharmacy education workshop in conjunction with the International Conference on Natural Products (ICNP) 2010. The main objectives of the workshop were to discuss issues around the standardization of pre-service and graduate pharmacy education in the Asia Pacific region and to initiate transnational approaches to pharmacy education in SE Asian region.

The workshop was held in Penang Island, Malaysia, on 11 and 12 December 2010. Speakers included Mr John Chang (FAPA), Prof Tan Sri Dato' Mohammed Salleh Mohammed Yasin (UNU and Malaysian Qualifications Agency), Prof Kenji Sugibayashi (Josai University, Japan), Prof Baidi Bahari (Assoc. Asain Schools Pharmacy), Prof Syed Mohammed Alijunid (UNU-IIGH) and myself.

The conference was concluded with a workshop session, whereby delegates reached consensus on a number of issues relating to QA of education, trans-border approaches and educational innovation. The workshop delegates voted to institute a regional taskforce in order to tackle these challenges by working across borders. It will be great to see what efforts come out of this intiative.

Resources

WHO have updated their page on pharmaceutical HR and the work that they are doing in this area: **http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/coordination/hrpharma/en/index.html.**

Jhpiego's New Training Skills eLearning Package
Jhpiego has shared new Training Skills materials with the global community. The group has revised their ModCAL® (Modified Computer-Assisted Learning) for Training Skills, a computer-based knowledge update, as well as the Training Skills for Health Care Providers reference manual and related learning materials. According to Jhpiego, the new Training Skills course uses a combination of self-paced learning, delivered via ModCAL® for Training Skills, and individual coaching by a master trainer. This course is meant for individuals who are service providers and are available and interested in training. It may also be used for pre-service faculty or clinical preceptors. You can visit or download materials on the web at: **http://modcal.jhpiego.org/** or learn more by visiting our website at:
http://www.jhpiego.org/whatwedo/ModCAL.htm

Procurement & Supply Management Toolbox
The toolbox website (http://www.psmtoolbox.org) is a WHO/ AMDS repository of tools for health professionals, students in health related sciences and consultants working on PSM and other public health related areas. The database contains PSM tools and resource documents for ARVs, TB & Malaria medicines and several other health commodities. The main languages are English and French and links to tools in Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian have been mentioned where available.

Several new tools and updates have been added to the toolbox, including:
1. **A Malaria Commodities Fact Sheet**
http://www.psmtoolbox.org/en/tool-details%7CCapacity-building%7CMalaria-Commodities-Fact-Sheet%7C309
2. **Priority Interventions: HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in the health sector**
http://www.psmtoolbox.org/en/tool-details%7CPolicy%7CPriority-Interventions-HIV-AIDS-prevention,-treatment-and-care-in-the-health-sector%7C315
3. **WHO policy on TB infection control in health-care facilities, congregate settings and households**
http://www.psmtoolbox.org/en/tool-details%7CPolicy%7CWHO-policy-on-TB-infection-control-in-health-care-facilities,-congregate-settings-and-households.%7C316

Also, the PSM Training Calendar has been updated for 2011. The list contains 49 training events to be organized in English, French and Spanish in the following countries: Australia, Austria, Burkina Faso, Denmark, India, Kenya, the Netherlands, Panama, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, UK, and the US. Check **http://www.psmtoolbox.org/en/training.php** for courses organized throughout the year.

Sub-Saharan African Medical Schools Study
The report **"The Sub-Saharan African Medical School Study: Data, Observation, and Opportunity"** has recently been released. The report outlines the site visit findings gathered from visits to ten medical schools and a survey distributed to 146 medical schools in the region. The report discusses some challenges including the mismatch between the number of medical students trained and the number of physicians the government can employ, the lack of coordination among ministries of health and ministries of education, the severe shortage of medical school faculty, the inadequate infrastructure, and the variability in secondarily school education quality. The report also outlines the different levels of

innovations observed in the medical schools. Many of the medical schools emphasized "community oriented," "relevant," or "nationally focused" medical education to meet local needs. The Study reveals that medical schools in Africa have developed partnerships with medical schools in other countries to support teaching, service and research activities. The link to the full report is:
http://samss.org/samss.upload/documents/126.pdf

A Message from Sarah Whitmarsh, Communciations Liaison for the Pharmacy Education Taskforce

As many of you may already know, I am leaving my position at the School of Pharmacy, University of London this week. With it, I will also be leaving my full time duties as Communications Liaison for the FIP Pharmacy Education Taskforce. I have enjoyed working with the Taskforce and FIP team over the past two years, and count myself very lucky to be a part of such a wonderful team. While it is bittersweet to be moving on, I am very happy to be back home in the United States. There are many great things happening in the Taskforce and in FIP, and I look forward to seeing all of our efforts continuing to succeed. I will be leaving communications duties in the very capable hands of Diane Gal, the Project Manager for the Taskforce.

Warmest regards,
Sarah

Contact
 If you would like more information about the Pharmacy Education Taskforce, please contact Sarah Whitmarsh, Communications Liaison, at education@fip.org. If you have any information you would like to include in this newsletter, please also send it to her by the 25th of each month.

 Project Team Leads
 Project Team Leads are responsible for overseeing and developing activities in each priority domain of work to achieve the Action Plan's objectives.
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