



MEDIA RELEASE

Pharmacists Gather in Cairo to Discuss Access to Medicines and Other Key Global Health Priorities

Historic Cairo meeting sees FIP in Africa and the Arab world for the first- time ever.

Cairo, Egypt, 4 September 2005 ----- Bringing together more than 2000 pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists from 92 countries, the annual congress of FIP – the international organization representing the world’s 2 million pharmacists - will focus on key issues in global health, including access to medicines, migration of pharmacists, combating counterfeit, and HIV/AIDS. This is the first time in FIP’s 93- year history that its world congress has been held in Africa and in the Arab world.

“ We are delighted to be meeting in Africa and feel it is particularly appropriate that while here we focus on the crucial issue of access to medicines,” stated FIP President Jean Parrot. “FIP believes it is unacceptable that essential medicines are not available to one third of the world’s population.”

The congress will also see the launching of the FIP report on health human resources in Africa, looking at this critical factor in the scale up of treatment for HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. The report represents a year-long study by the FIP “Pharmacists and HIV” working group, chaired by FIP president Jean Parrot, looking at the availability of health professionals in Africa, with a particular focus on those countries with a high incidence of HIV infection. The conclusions and data will be officially handed over to the World Health Organization at the congress.

Other key topics for debate and discussion will include outcomes from the FIP Working Group on Counterfeit Medicines and how pharmacists can effectively participate in the battle to reduce and eventually eliminate limit this serious threat to patient-safety; patient-focused healthcare; the migration of pharmacists, and pharmacy e-learning.

The Cairo Congress will host XX presentations over 5 days as well as a 3-day governance meeting.

Editor's Note:

The **International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)** is the global federation of the national organisations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. Pharmacists are health professionals dedicated to improving the access to and value of appropriate medicine use.

For further Information