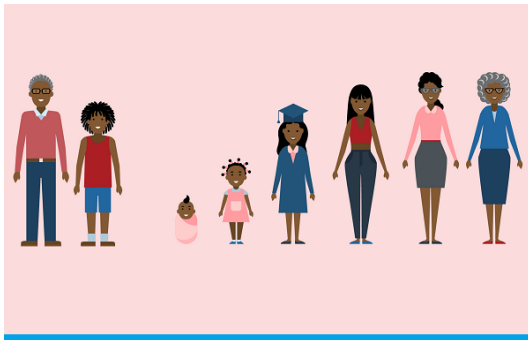


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MEMBER  
ORGANISATION  
NEWSLETTER  
June 2018



**Healthy ageing**  
is the focus of  
the **latest IPJ**

[>More](#)



**Pharmacists rated highest**  
**for care**, according  
to **latest Scottish data**

[>More](#)

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## FIP CONGRATULATES...

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## FIP NEWS

### Healthy ageing is the focus of the latest IPJ

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A new issue of the *International Pharmacy Journal (IPJ)*, focusing on healthy ageing, was published this week. Our latest issue is dedicated to what the pharmaceutical profession is currently doing to turn longer lives into longer, healthier lives, and how it is preparing for our ageing future. The journal looks at ageing from a wide variety of perspectives, from new research on dementia treatment and pharmacies meeting “age-friendly criteria” to vaccines recommended for the elderly and specialisation in geriatric pharmacy. [More>](#)

### Interventions that improve adherence in the elderly listed

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New medicines services, more counselling when a medicine is supplied again, dosage administration aids and reminder systems feature in a list of pharmacy interventions with evidence of improving adherence to medication in elderly patients with chronic conditions, according to new FIP report published last week. The report “[Use of medicines by the elderly: The role of pharmacy in promoting adherence](#)”, reviews existing knowledge of pharmacy programmes and services to improve adherence in this growing patient population. “Pharmacists have a key role in monitoring and improving patient adherence to medicines, both as a single profession, as well as within a multidisciplinary, patient-centred collaborative team,” said Parisa Aslani, lead author and

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### Better and more pharmacy practice research discussed at new FIP conference

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Hundreds of postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows and supervisors gathered at a conference organised by FIP's Special Interest Group on Pharmacy Practice Research (PPR) in Lisbon, Portugal, this week, to present research, to network and to help increase the quality and quantity of PPR globally. Participants were welcomed at the opening by Charlie Benrimoj, director, Graduate School of Health, University of Technology Sydney, Australia, and Fernando Fernandez-Llimos, assistant professor, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon. Also present at the conference was Ema Paulino, FIP's professional secretary. "To enact FIP's mission, we need sound research to show the scope of pharmacists' interventions and to prove their added value to society," Ms Paulino told the conference.

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### Closing gaps in pharmacy education

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A meeting of the FIP-UNESCO UNITWIN Centre for Excellence in Education in Africa took place in Lagos, Nigeria, this month. One of the key objectives of the meeting — organised by FIP in collaboration with the University of Benin — was to identify current gaps in pharmacy education in UNITWIN partner countries, using FIP Education tools such as the [Pharmaceutical Workforce Development Goals](#), and other outcomes of FIP's Nanjing conference in 2016. Representatives of schools of pharmacy from Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia were present at the meeting.

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### Certified immunisation course available at FIP congress in Glasgow

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Continuing its effort to advocate for greater immunisation rights and to equip pharmacists with immunisation skills, FIP will be providing a certified immunisation course at the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Glasgow, UK, this year. FIP has partnered with the American Pharmacists Association to provide the training, which will take place on 1 and 2 September. The course includes the basics of immunology and focuses on practice implementation and regulatory issues. Register [here](#).



## WORLD NEWS

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### Pharmacists rated highest for care, according to latest Scottish data

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Pharmacists, along with ambulance accident and emergency crews, were rated highest for out-of-hours care, with 89% of patients describing their experience of services as positive, according to the results of the Scottish government's 2017/2018 national health and care experience survey. Almost half of the respondents (n=130,000) said they had tried to get treatment or advice from a pharmacy or an emergency service in the past 12 months. An overarching finding of the survey was that respondents were slightly less positive than in previous surveys, in particular about accessing GP services and support for carers. [More>](#)

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### AMR policy and national action plan launched in Ghana

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Organization of the United Nations, in April. The implementation of the AMR policy will be backed by a functional regulatory framework for which Ghana's president has tasked the country's health minister and attorney-general to take the necessary steps to move some of the policy issues into legislation to ensure public health and safety. Key among these are policies on environment and waste, rational use of medicines, crop and animal production, and residues. The president also urged citizens to get involved in the control of AMR in the country. [More>](#)

### [New US law allows severely ill patients access to investigational medicines](#)

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Legislation allowing severely ill patients access to investigational medicines was passed by the government of the United States of America last month. The new legislation will let patients who are near death, or who have a disease that is likely to lead to severely premature death, potentially access drugs that have gone through only preliminary testing on humans. These patients would have to be ineligible for a clinical trial and have already tried other available treatments. [More>](#)

### [Minimum pay for pharmacists in Australia increased](#)

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A 3.5% increase in pharmacist minimum pay rates was announced by the Australian Fair Work Commission (FWC) earlier this month. As of 1 July 2018, the minimum pay rate for a pharmacist will be AUD 27.19 (EUR 17.29) per hour and the starting pay rate for an intern pharmacist will be AUD 23.25 (EUR 14.79). Professional Pharmacists Australia welcomed the FWC national minimum wage review as a step in the right direction for pharmacist pay. [More>](#)

### [Management of chronic diseases among refugees improved by pharmacist interventions](#)

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Intervention by pharmacists significantly improves management of chronic diseases among Syrian refugees in Jordan, according to a new study published in *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy* earlier this month. The study identified the type and frequency of treatment-related problems (TRPs) for this population and explored the impact of a pharmacist-delivered home medication management review (HMMR) service on resolving the identified TRPs. Significant differences between the intervention and control groups were found with regard to TRP outcomes at follow-up. The percentage of TRPs resolved or improved in the intervention group was 66.8%, compared with 1.5% in the control group. Furthermore, the incidence of "no change" in the TRPs was found to be 19.7% in the intervention group, compared with 94.1% in the control group. The 109 patients who took part in the study were recruited from physicians' clinics allocated for refugees, had at least one chronic condition and/or took five or more medicines with at least 12 daily doses. [More>](#)

### [Pharmacists in Ireland now required to go through vetting process](#)

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Pharmacists and pharmaceutical assistants in Ireland must now be vetted by the country's National Vetting Bureau, which carries out checks on people who work with children or vulnerable persons. From May onwards, all pharmacists and pharmaceutical assistants must be vetted before taking up new employment, even if they have previously been vetted. This new rule applies to any work or activity that is carried out by a person, a necessary and regular part of which requires the person to have access to, or contact with, children or vulnerable persons in the course of that work or activity. [More>](#)

A screening device that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to eliminate the need for a clinician to interpret results was authorised for use by the US Food and Drug Administration in April. It is the first time such a device has been approved and this opens up the possibility of diabetic retinopathy screening being done by healthcare providers who are not usually involved in eye care. The device is a software program that uses an artificial intelligence algorithm to analyse images of the eye taken with a retinal camera. [More>](#)



## MEMBER ORGANISATION NEWS

### [Canada: Include more support for patients in new cannabis bill, pharmacists urge senate](#)

The Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) last month called on Canada's Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology to make sure that there is a clear differentiation between the recreational and medical cannabis streams, with incentives for patients to remain in the medical cannabis stream. With the legalisation of recreational cannabis on the horizon, there is concern that the new regulation may make recreational cannabis easier to access than medical cannabis. Pharmacists are best equipped to provide clinical advice to patients and appropriate oversight in the safe management and dispensing of medical cannabis, according to the CPhA. [More>](#)

### [Brazil: Pharmacists debate biosimilars in the lower house of national congress](#)

A public hearing on the interchangeability of biological medicines and biosimilars, held in the lower house of the national congress of Brazil, was attended by Brazil's Federal Council of Pharmacy (CFF) last month. "Our understanding is that interchangeability, as in the case of generic medicines, has always been an assignment of the pharmacist, since this is the professional who knows and dispenses the medication to the patient. Our intention here is to follow this debate to ensure that the interchangeability between biological and biosimilar medicines is also made by the pharmacist," stated José Luis Maldonado, coordinator of technical advice, CFF. Mr Maldonado requested that the CFF also be heard at the next meeting of the legislative body. [More>](#)

### [Portugal: Dispensing HIV medicines in pharmacies shows high patient satisfaction](#)

A pilot in which antiretroviral medicines dispensing services were provided by community pharmacies has shown high levels of satisfaction among patients. Currently, in Portugal, antiretroviral therapy is exclusively dispensed in hospital pharmacies. The pilot, promoted by the country's health ministry, showed that when it comes to aspects such as dignity and respect, privacy, schedule, assistance time, information and professional qualification, patients are highly satisfied with community pharmacies. Access to HIV medicines also improved when these were provided via community pharmacies. On average, patients saved half an hour in travel and waited less time to have their medicines dispensed. [More>](#)

### [Germany: Fewer pharmacies but with more pharmacists, new data show](#)

Associations of Pharmacists (ABDA) earlier this month. Meanwhile, the number of people working in pharmacies reached a new high of more than 157,000 at the end of 2017, with one third (51,000) of them being licensed pharmacists. “The fact that we have more employees in the pharmacies despite declining numbers of pharmacies results from the fact that the care of patients is becoming more complex and the administrative effort increases,” said ABDA president Friedemann Schmidt. [More>](#)

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### **UK: Pharmacists crucial in tackling mental health problems, minister says**

A [report](#) on how pharmacist expertise can be maximised to support patients with mental health problems was published by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) earlier this month. The RPS was joined by members of parliament from different parties and experts from across health care at the launch of the report. “Pharmacists are a crucial part of the drive to achieve parity of esteem between physical and mental health problems,” said Jackie Doyle-Price, Parliamentary Under-secretary of State for Mental Health and Inequalities, at the launch. [More>](#)

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### **Ireland: Association welcomes increase in uptake of flu vaccine in pharmacies**

Recent figures showing that the number of people receiving their flu vaccine in a community pharmacy increased by 46% over the past year have been welcomed by the Irish Pharmacy Union. Figures from the government agency Health Service Executive (HSE) show that in the 2017/2018 flu season, 115,095 people got their flu vaccine in a pharmacy — up from 78,935 in the previous year — accounting for approximately one in seven of the total vaccinations performed. Data also indicate that pharmacy vaccination does not take patients away from traditional vaccine providers, since national flu vaccination has increased by 29%, GP flu vaccination by 8% and HSE flu vaccination by 140%. [More>](#)

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### **Austria: Pharmacists welcome cannabis for medical purposes**

An agreement by Austria’s Health Committee of the National Council on liberalisation of cannabis for medical purposes was welcomed by the Austrian Chamber of Pharmacists last week. “There are 1.8 million pain patients in Austria. The use of cannabis in dermal therapy means a tremendous increase in the quality of life for many of these people. However, if cannabis is to be used for medical purposes, it should be delivered through pharmacies to ensure quality and safety,” said Dr Ulrike Mursch-Edlmayr, president, Austrian Chamber of Pharmacists. The chamber offered its expertise to develop protocols for the implementation of the new legislation. [More>](#)

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### **Costa Rica: Pharmacists raise awareness about medicines use by blood donors**

An awareness campaign about the potential implications of medicines use by blood donors was launched by the Pharmaceutical College of Costa Rica (COLFAR) on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day earlier this month. Blood donors were encouraged to consult their pharmacist before donating blood. “For example, if you are on antibiotics you should wait a few days, because you run the risk of ‘passing’ the infection. Other medicines may even imply that the patient should not give blood at all, such as those against epilepsy, growth hormones or some types of chemotherapy,” said Lorena Quirós, executive director, COLFAR. [More>](#)

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## Urgent action against chronic diseases called for in new WHO report

Urgent action to address chronic diseases and mental health disorders is called for by the World Health Organization's Independent High-Level Commission on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) in a new [report](#). In the report, the commission demands high-level political commitment and the immediate scaling up of actions to address the epidemic of NCDs. "We know the problem and we have the solutions, but unless we increase financing for NCDs, and demand all stakeholders be held responsible for delivering on their promises, we won't be able to accelerate progress," said Sania Nishtar, co-chair of the commission. [More>](#)

## New International Classification of Diseases released by WHO

The new [International Classification of Diseases](#) (ICD) was released by the World Health Organization last week. The ICD is the foundation for identifying health trends and statistics worldwide, and contains around 55,000 unique codes for injuries, diseases and causes of death. It provides a common language that allows health professionals to share health information across the globe. The latest ICD also includes new chapters, one on traditional medicine: although millions of people use traditional medicine worldwide, it has never been classified in this system.



### FIP CONGRATULATES...

- Mr Petr Horák on being elected president of the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists

## HOW YOU CAN USE THIS NEWSLETTER

*The Global Picture* is a service for FIP's member organisations. This newsletter is published at the end of each month and contains news from FIP, WHO and your fellow member organisations, and general pharmacy news from around the world. You may nominate up to four people within your organisation to receive the newsletter. If you wish to add to or update our mailing list, please contact Ms Branka Brglez ([branka@fip.org](mailto:branka@fip.org)).

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