Dear FIP member

Season’s Greetings and welcome to the fifth and final edition of The Mortar Board for 2019.

In this edition, our Section President, Prof John Pieper, reports on the Sections’ latest achievements for the year. His message also highlights funding matters, AcPS Working Groups’ direction and alignment with the goals of the Strategic Implementation Plan and calls upon members to reach out to the Section, with their thoughts and ideas, on how to further enhance our actions to achieve these goals.

We are privileged in this edition, to have the The Mortar Board share reflective thoughts and some facts about the Section from Prof Dai John, Cardiff University, UK. As Immediate Past Vice-President, Dai reflects on his experience, engagement with the team and the Section’s achievements in the past four years. The AcPS extends its gratitude for the support and assistance Dai has provided over the years.

Also, the newsletter provides reports from FIP’s AIM via the Leadership Blog, AcPS AIM-IPSF Mentor Program in Pharmacy Education, and under Global Pharmacy Education we present a short review on pharmacy education and training in North Cyprus!

Finally, please find below a reminder for abstract submission deadlines, for the 2020 FIP World Congress in Seville, Spain.

On behalf of the AcPS, I would like to wish you and your loved ones, a safe and Happy New Year.
Message from the President

Dear AcPS members

Dalia Bajis, Editor

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The Executive Committee (ExCo) of the Academic Pharmacy Section (AcPS) held our first meeting in November, following the Section elections in Abu Dhabi. An important issue discussed was reviewing the membership and assignments of the Working Groups. The AcPS Working Groups are Membership, Finance, World Congress Programming, Strategic Implementation Plan Monitoring, Educator Development, Poster and Abstract Adjudication, Program Assessment and Connection and Communications. Each ExCo member has assumed responsibility for a Working Group. The assignments for each Working Group were discussed and finalized and will be available on our Section website. The Section budget for 2020 was reviewed and noted that the section, in 2020, is financially supporting the YPG Leadership Development Workshop at the World Congress and the Pharmabridge program. In addition, the Section is funding the Competency Framework for Educators project. On September 30, 2019, the Section membership was 759, the highest number in our history. The Section twitter account (@FIP_AcPS) has 1192 followers as of December 20, 2019.

Your new ExCo is very interested in hearing from you. Please share your thoughts with me at john.pieper@stlcop.edu.

On behalf of the AcPS, I wish all our members a Happy Holiday season.

John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, FFIP
President, FIP Academic Pharmacy Section

President and Professor
St. Louis College of Pharmacy, USA

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**AcPS Strategic Implementation Plan**

**2019 to 2024**

The Academic Pharmacy Section Strategic Implementation Plan 2019 to 2024 was approved by Section Membership during the annual Business Meeting at the 2019 FIP World Congress in Abu Dhabi on 23rd September 2019. The Strategic Implementation Plan stipulates four overarching goals:

**GOAL 1: Educator and Career Development [People]**
**GOAL 2: Educational Programme Design and Assessment [Programme and Curriculum]**
**GOAL 3: Sustainability [Membership and Resources]**
**GOAL 4: Collaboration and Communication [Connections]**

Read the document in detail [Here](#).

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**What happened on social media**
The International Pharmacy Journal is one of the benefits of being a member of the International Pharmaceutical Federation. *IPJ* No2, November 2019 released. Here is the link

FIP’s Season’s Greetings [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com). FIP’s first “FIP-EquityRx Collection: Inclusion for all, equity for all” published in December 2019. FIP’s EquityRx work focuses on empowering women both within and outside the pharmacy workforce. Read document [here](https://www.fip.org).

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**Reflections of Immediate Past AcPS Vice-President 2015-2019**

By: Professor Dai John
Cardiff University, Wales UK

I had attended a number of FIP Congresses, including Academic Pharmacy Section (AcPS) business meetings, for a number of years and so when a call for nominations was made for AcPS ExCo in 2015 I knew this was something that would be interesting and challenging. Talking to colleagues within and outside FIP I accepted the nomination for, and was fortunate
committed pharmacists and pharmaceuticals scientists from across the globe on ExCo and more widely across the FIP family, not only members of AcPS. Being a member of the Board of Pharmaceutical Practice was an excellent and inspiring experience working with FIP officers and HQ staff, and officers of all the other sections.

So what has AcPS achieved in the past four years? A new strategic plan was developed, and with the reorganisation of the structures with FIP, that has already been reviewed and updated in line with the FIPEd and FIP Strategies. I was delighted that one of ExCo’s major aims was to increase opportunities for member engagement and improve communication. I shall focus my reflections on the achievements in this area, although there have been many others. There has been a significant increase in the interest from members in applying for ExCo positions, feedback indicating that increased visibility and awareness of the work undertaken by AcPS.

FIP World Congress: Four years ago, AcPS ExCo invested a great deal of time and thought in its offering for members attending the FIP World Congress and within a year we had introduced poster awards and developed a more inclusive and structured approach to developing sessions of value to AcPS members.

Posters: Adjudication of posters submitted under the banner of AcPS were introduced, in line with other sections. ExCo and non-ExCo members contributed to adjudicating the posters displayed; involving others is an excellent way in which less experienced members can, through effective mentorship, develop important skills in reviewing the research and scholarship of others, and the way in which that information is presented. Colleagues were also extremely valuable in developing and refining the criteria for poster assessment, and are now made available to members. The numbers of posters presented does vary year on year but the underlying trend over the past 4 years has been a dramatic rise. This has been due, at least in part, to the poster awards and raising awareness far ahead of the abstract submission deadline. Abstract review and poster adjudication is now undertaken by a specific working group, which includes non-ExCo membership.

Congress sessions: A concerted effort was made to increase member engagement with the identification of topics for sessions at Congress, including importantly those in partnership with other sections. In the first two years, small teams of colleagues worked together to design session topics and formats that were relevant, interesting and engaging. Work on developing sessions starts over 20 months ahead of each congress. Session outlines are produced and submitted to the FIP Congress Programming Committee which reviews submissions from across the organization before deciding on those sessions accepted. The numbers of sessions accepted for Congress has increased significantly in the past four years, as has the quality of the sessions, measured by feedback to FIP on the topics, formats and speakers. The process is similar now but the work is undertaken by a specific working group, which includes non-ExCo membership.

Engaging with Members outside Congress: The opportunities below are open to AcPS members, including the vast majority who are unable to attend congresses.

- Newsletters updating members on a broad range of issues now regularly appear in the inboxes of AcPS members, appreciated and are read with interest (via membership survey and informal feedback).
A Twitter account @FIP_AcPS started in October 2017 which now has nearly 1,200 followers keeping members up-to-date in a timely manner with AcPS and other pharmacy developments, especially education.

Working groups where members can, and indeed do, contribute in a number of ways to the various work streams of the section.

There are / will be a number of time-limited projects where members with specific expertise may be able to assist.

So, if you are a member and wish to get involved with, and contribute to, the work of the AcPS, there are plenty of opportunities that exist. The more you put in, the more you get out.

A very sincere thank you to all of you who have made my experiences so rewarding and enjoyable; I am extremely grateful.

Diolch yn fawr iawn pawb / Thank you very much everyone.

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AIM Leadership Blog

Teaming up to strengthen education and training initiatives to meet human resources needs in health
By: Lilian M. Azzopardi & Kristien De Paepe

The FIP Regional Conference for the European Region which was held in October 2019 in Ankara, Turkey, was an optimum opportunity for the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (EAFP) to collaborate with FIP on the session looking into the pharmaceutical workforce development needs to achieve targets in health management... In Ankara, EAFP supported the session dedicated to ‘Human resources for health: Education and training to meet envisioned pharmaceutical competencies’. The session focused on exploring how
AcPS, AIM - IPSF Mentor Program in Pharmacy Education

By: Professor Ralph J. Altiere

The AcPS-IPSF Mentor Program in Pharmacy Education under development for the past year was launched in October 2019. The program was initiated by Prof. Ralph J. Altiere, Immediate Past President of AcPS, AcPS Liaison with IPSF and AIM Advisory Committee Member, along with Ms. Louisa Sullivan and Mr. Daniel Semmy, past Chairpersons of Pharmacy Education at IPSF and supported by current Chairperson, Ms. Alison Ekwere Williams.

There are four IPSF mentees in the program, one each from the University of Benin, Nigeria and University of Nairobi, Kenya, and two from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana. They are each matched with a mentor from AcPS: Prof. Lilian Azzopardi, University of Malta; Prof. Carl Schneider, University of Sydney; Dr. Shaun Gleason, University of Colorado; and Dr. Katie Kuecker, University of Wisconsin.

The program is meant to support curriculum development in the mentees respective schools using FIP resources as guides to curriculum change, including the Global Competency Framework, the Nanjing Statements and Pharmaceutical Workforce Develop Goals (PWDGs). Mentors and mentees are expected to work closely with the school’s Head/Dean and faculty member(s) to engage in curriculum development to meet the societal needs of their communities and countries.

We look forward to learning of their good work over the next 12-18 months.

Best wishes to our mentees!

Global Pharmacy Education:
North Cyprus
By: Abdikarim Mohamed Abdi & Rumeysa Demirdamar

International universities in Northern Cyprus have been recently attractive for thousands of students each year from more than 110 different countries worldwide. Six universities in North Cyprus that offer pharmacy education with English being the language of instruction. A 5-year Master of Pharmacy degree is the required entry-to-practice degree in North Cyprus. Read More.
Seville 2020: Deadlines for abstract submission

Preparations have started for abstract submission for the 2020 FIP congress in Seville.

The deadline for abstract submission is 15 April 2020. FIP requires a structured abstract of max. 1700 characters which needs to follow the designed guidelines.

FIP will implement an Abstract Monitoring Programme as an extra support for authors with limited or no experience of submitting an abstract for a scientific congress. The goal is to help authors present their material clearly and concisely before their abstracts are submitted for the formal abstract review process, especially for those whose first language is not English. The deadline for sending in abstracts for mentoring is 5 March 2020. More information will become available through the website in due time.

We sincerely hope many of you will submit their work. Please encourage colleagues to do so as well!

If you are interested to act as a mentor or reviewer for abstracts submitted to the Academic Pharmacy Section, please send a message to Aukje Mantel (a.k.mantel@uu.nl).

Follow us! @FIP_AcPS
About the Academic Pharmacy Section

FIP's Academic Pharmacy Section was founded in 1972. Our mission is to serve as an international source for networking, collaboration and inspiration for educators to transform pharmacy education for the purpose of advancing practice and science to meet present and future health needs in communities around the world.