Dear FIP member

“Change is the only constant in life” (Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, circa 500 BC), and change is the ever present constant in healthcare. The FIP 2019 Congress in Abu Dhabi, themed “New horizons for pharmacy - Navigating winds of change”, demonstrated this change at multiple levels and in multiple domains of pharmacy.

We heard about the changing healthcare environment and the disruptive role of technology in the delivery of health services. We learnt about the ever-changing role of pharmacists and the expansion in scopes of practice in almost every field of pharmacy practice. Importantly, we were challenged by the voices of the changing public and patients that we serve, and the underutilised “pharmacist’s friend”: the woman or carer who provides preventative healthcare as well as treatment and care for their loved ones. However, the one thing that never changes is the pharmacist’s core responsibility of ensuring the health and well-being of the patients and consumers we see and serve on a daily basis.

The passion for pharmacy and the positive impacts pharmacy makes in the health of people was clearly evident at the Congress. The speakers and their presentations inspired us, motivated us, and equipped us with new knowledge and skills. It is important for us to implement some, if not all, of our learnings into our everyday practice, and ensure that we continue to change and improve on the health services we provide.

This issue of Info-Link showcases some of the HaMIS activities at the FIP 2019 Congress. Change is also coming to the HaMIS ExCo. At the FIP 2020 Congress in Seville, Spain, there will be elections for all HaMIS Executive Committee positions. I urge you to consider being involved, and use the next few months to find out more about the HaMIS ExCo positions, and their roles and responsibilities, by either contacting me or one of the ExCo members directly.

In 2021, FIP will be travelling down under, to Brisbane, Australia. As part of the Host Organising Committee and as the Conference Chair, I welcome you to Brisbane. Please start planning! And consider further change, namely in your travels to the Southern Hemisphere.

Parisa Aslani
President
HaMIS Stipend winner - Shepard Mhlaba

Every year, HaMIS offers a Stipend to support a pharmacy student, pharmacist or pharmaceutical scientist from a low- or middle-income country working or involved in the area of health and medicines information to attend the FIP World Congress.

We received a record number of applications this year - a total of 165 applications from 36 countries!!!

HaMIS are pleased to announce that this year’s Stipend was awarded to Shepard Mhlaba from Zimbabwe.
Ms Froukje Harkes-Idzinga - Winner of HaMIS Best Poster Award!

This year’s Congress saw several high quality posters submitted to the FIP Health and Medicines Information Section. Approximately half of the posters presented as part of the FIP HaMIS posters showcase were submitted for judging by our poster judging panel, which was led by our Executive Committee Member Representative for Europe, Rian Lelie- van der Zande.

On behalf of HaMIS, we are pleased to announce that this year’s Best Poster Award has been awarded to Ms Froukje Harkes-Idzinga and Karen de Leest for their poster entitled “Pharmaceutical Care for Morbidly Obese and Bariatric Patients”.

The top scoring posters for the Section, as determined by the panel, can be accessed via the links below:

- Froukje Harkes-Idzinga et al.: PHARMACEUTICAL CARE FOR MORBIDLY OBESE AND BARIATRIC PATIENTS
- Shukry Zawahir et al.: SELF-MEDICATION WITH ANTIBIOTICS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL NATIONAL SURVEY OF SRI LANKAN PUBLIC’S KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOUR
- Ardalan Mirzaei et al.: PREDICTORS OF HEALTH INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR
Congratulations Froukje and Karen for their important work and award-winning poster!

- Hue-Yu Wang et al.: **INVESTIGATION OF THE RISK OF LOW BACK PAIN IN PHARMACIST - A NATIONWIDE POPULATION-BASED COHORT STUDY**
- Dalal Hammoudi et al.: **COMPARISON OF TWO METHODS FOR ACNE VULGARIS COUNSELING AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN BEKAA, LEBANON**
The poster presentations are a fantastic way for us to keep in touch with current health and medicines-related initiatives across the spectrum of practice. On behalf of FIP HaMIS, we wish to extend sincere thanks to all the poster presenters attending this year’s 2019 FIP World Congress in Abu Dhabi as well as our poster judging panel members for their volunteered time and help.

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**Session reflections - D17 - “What’s new in practice? Part 1”**

Session D17 - “What’s new in practice? Part 1” proved to be a fantastic start to the two-part program showcasing the work of colleagues from around the globe, spanning areas relevant to the Academic, Community, Hospital, and Social and Administrative Pharmacy, as well as Health and Medicines Information Sections.

The first session was well attended and encompassed 13 presentations on the day, representing the diversity of engagement of fellow pharmacists and colleagues within our profession and its practice around the globe.

Presentations spanned antimicrobial stewardship, medication safety-related initiatives, together with projects relating to mental health, pharmacy education, pharmacist-led services and professional innovation.

Below are some photos taken at the session, uploaded online as part of the official FIP Congress photos.
Many congratulations and thanks to all speakers for sharing with your fellow FIP Congress delegates the important research and work that you do!

**Antimicrobial Resistance - A Global Health Challenge**

Antibiotic resistance remains an important global health problem, especially in low- and middle-income countries. As a health challenge, it has huge cost implications, adding to the annual global economic burden through increased healthcare costs. The World Health Organization has a Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and the significance of AMR and the role of the pharmacist in the appropriate use of antibiotics was evident at the FIP 2019 Congress.

There were several sessions at the Congress, and one organised by the Health and Medicines Information Section was **“C4 - One approach doesn’t fit all: Need for country specific interventions to promote appropriate use of antibiotics”**. In this session... [More>](https://example.com)
Experiences of my first FIP World Congress

Adam Rathbone

After finding out FIP2019 would be in Abu Dhabi and being invited to speak, I booked my flights and hotel close to the National Exhibition Centre. Although I had travelled to the UAE many times before, I had not stayed or worked in Abu Dhabi or visited the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. When I arrived, I was given a great welcome by the FIP Volunteers who helped me print my badge, gave me a collection of ribbons that extended someway passed my midriff and directions to the nearest available coffee stall. The opening ceremony was both officious and entertaining. Delegates were treated to the awe-inspiring work of a sand artist as well as musical treats from a brigade of bagpipers. Although being a new conference for me, in a new place, I was greeted by many familiar faces, who quickly introduced me to new faces from around the world!

My first experiences of the conference… More>
Getting to know our newest co-opted ExCo Member: IPSF President

Ms Aya Jamal

On behalf of the HaMIS ExCo, we acknowledge and thank the contributions made by Ms Petra Orlić, International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) Immediate Past President who has been incredibly active on our ExCo this past year!

As Petra’s term has recently finished, we welcome our newest ExCo member, Ms Aya Jamal, who has recently commenced her term as IPSF President and HaMIS ExCo member. Aya was co-opted onto the HaMIS ExCo at the recent HaMIS ExCo meeting in Abu Dhabi.

HaMIS reached out to Aya to get to know her a little better... More>
Upcoming conferences

1. FIP Regional Conference - European Region
   Ankara, Turkey
   23-25 October 2019
   Theme: ‘Delivering primary health care: Pharmacists taking the next leap forward’
   Website: ankara2019.congress.pharmacy

2. 23rd ESPACOMP Conference
   Porto, Portugal
   21-23 November 2019
   Theme: ‘Digital health and patient empowerment’
   Website: http://www.espacomp.eu/

3. APSA 2019 Annual Conference
   Melbourne, Australia
   1-4 December 2019
   Theme: ‘Working together toward better health outcomes’
   Website: https://expertevents.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/apsa-2019/conference

4. 7th PCNE Working Symposium 2020
   Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands
   7-8 February 2020
   Theme: ‘Right questions, valid answers’
   Website: https://www.pcne.org/conference/27/7th-pcne-working-symposium-2020

5. FIP Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress
   Montreal, Canada
   22-27 May 2020
   Website: https://pswc2020.congress.pharmacy/
Sydney, Australia
13–16 July 2020
Theme: ‘A global vision for social pharmacy’
Website: https://expertevents.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/international-social-pharmacy-workshop/info

7. FIP Seville 2020
Seville, Spain
13-17 September 2020
Theme: ‘The technological revolution – Impact on pharmacy and health care’
Website: https://congress.fip.org/seville2020/

2016-2020 HaMIS Executive Committee

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(Australia)

Secretary
Boyan Todorov
(The Netherlands)

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YPG Representative (co-opted)
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(USA)

IPSF Representative (co-opted)
Aya Jamal
(Sudan)

About the FIP Health and Medicines Information Section
FIP’s Health and Medicines Information Section (HaMIS; previously known as the Pharmacy Information Section) was founded in 1951. The membership has gradually broadened to include pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists from all over the globe who are interested in information related to health and medicines across a number of different capacities.