Dear FIP member

As we approach the end of the year, people often reflect on their achievements during the year, the ups and the downs, and the year that was. The Health and Medicines Information Section (HaMIS) has had another successful year in terms of FIP Congress sessions, input into FIP documents and policies, and the continuation of three new HaMIS Working Groups. I thank all of our membership who have been so actively involved in our Section’s activities in 2019. Our Section’s success is due to the hard work of the Executive Committee and our members.

As we think about 2020, I urge HaMIS members to share with us, through submissions to Info-Link, the new trends, technologies, innovations and services in their area of work, in their local community and/or in their country and region, which are relevant to the global pharmacy family.

In 2020, the FIP Congress will be held in Seville, Spain, and HaMIS has several sessions that we are leading or co-leading. The FIP 2020 Congress theme is “The technological revolution - Impact on pharmacy and health care”. I hope that many of you are considering attending the FIP Congress in Seville, which will be later in the year, from 13 to 17 September.

HaMIS is also preparing for the 2021 FIP Congress in Brisbane, Australia, and we are seeking input from the membership on workshop and session ideas (see Section). Please do contact me directly (by 31st January 2020) if you have ideas about workshops, oral presentations, presenters, etc. for the FIP Congress in 2021, and need assistance in submitting proposals for the Congress. The HaMIS Executive Committee can support members in developing ideas into proposals for the Congress.

We are also thinking about the theme for FIP 2022, which will be held in South Africa. If you have any ideas about the Congress theme, please contact me also (by 31st January 2020).

Thank you to everyone who has made this year another successful year for the Health and Medicines Information Section, in particular, the Executive Committee members. On behalf of the ExCo and Editorial team, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and wish you a happy, healthy, peaceful and productive 2020.
On behalf of the HaMIS Executive Committee, we wish all of our Section members a joyous festive season and a Happy New Year!

Wishing you and yours a happy and successful 2020!

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FIP’s new initiative -
“EquityRx: Championing women and diversity in pharmacy”

The President of HaMIS, Professor Parisa Aslani, has recently written a Blog for FIP’s new initiative “EquityRx: Championing women and diversity in pharmacy”.

Happy Holidays!
Pharmacists and caring for people with dementia

Edwin Tan

Worldwide, more than 47 million people live with dementia, and this number is projected to increase to 131 million by 2050 [1]. In 2019, over 440,000 Australians were affected. Dementia is the second leading cause of death in Australia and the single greatest cause of disability in those aged 65 years or older [2, 3]. The total estimated worldwide costs of dementia were US$818 billion in 2015 [4].

Alzheimer’s disease is the most common form of dementia, affecting up to 70% of all people with dementia [5]. Accumulation of beta-amyloid peptide and intracellular tau protein appear to be central to the degenerative changes in Alzheimer’s disease. These result in the destruction of neurones, including cholinergic neurones, and a fall in acetylcholine concentration [6]. None of the available medications prevents Alzheimer’s disease or modifies its pathology. However, medications may be used in conjunction with non-pharmacological treatments to manage cognition, function and behaviour [7].

Hackathon - innovating in digital health

Petra Orlić

In this time of rapid technological development and high digital transformation, there is a need for the health system to adapt to changes and innovation in order to offer patients better and more efficient services. FIP, together with the FIP Young Pharmacists Group (FIP YPG), International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) and Turkish Pharmacists’ Association Youth Commission (TPA-YC), supported by Pharmapod, embraced the challenge to lead digital transformation change in pharmacy by organising the first ever Health Hackathon for pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists during the FIP Regional Conference for the European Region in Ankara, Turkey.

What is a hackathon?

You may have wondered what a hackathon is, and what its role is in the transformation of pharmacy...
The International Pharmaceutical Federation Young Pharmacists Group (FIP YPG) in collaboration with the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) and the Indonesian Young Pharmacists Group (IYPG) presented a webinar entitled “Advanced Role of the Next Generation of Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Scientists in Public Health” on Wednesday 30th October 2019.

This webinar explored initiatives that pharmaceutical scientists, pharmacists and pharmacy students are undertaking around the world to promote public health within the local, national and international context. It provided an insight into the experiences of pharmaceutical scientists, pharmacists and pharmacy students at local, national, and international levels in strengthening public health and making a positive impact in the community.

The webinar had 187 attendees from all over the world… More>

FIP webinar on the contribution of pharmacists in diabetes

The topic of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) will be the focus of a series of FIP webinars. The first webinar, focusing on diabetes, was held twice, once on 11 December 2019 and again...
Asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular diseases and cancer will be addressed in future webinars.

As posted on FIP’s Facebook page, this webinar centered on diabetes, providing “an overview of the different roles that pharmacists can play in the management of this NCD in terms of prevention, screening, patient referral and treatment optimisation.”

In the lead-up to this webinar, Luna El Bizri, one of the presenters, reached out to us to provide further context:

According to the World Health Organization, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) make up over 60% of the deaths worldwide, many of which occur before the age of 70.

Pharmacists have an effective role in combating NCDs, as they:

- Perform relevant activities in the multidisciplinary healthcare team focused on prevention and early detection, and
- Optimise and ensure adherence to medication therapy regimens.

This webinar addressed how pharmacists can assist in the screening and prevention of diabetes within the community via different types of activities and interventions.

Furthermore, the role of pharmacists in the management of diabetes post diagnosis was elaborated on, with discussions about issues such as:

- Barriers to the achievement of desired therapeutic outcomes in patients,
- Interventions and programs led by pharmacists to overcome these barriers, and
- The importance of pharmacist-delivered adherence interventions for self-management practices and available tools for treatment optimisation.

For those who did not have the opportunity to join the webinar, a recording is available by logging in to view FIP member-only content.
Changes made in recent years in my community pharmacy

Luna El Bizri

I recently attended the 79th FIP Congress “New horizons for pharmacy - Navigating winds of change”, which made me reflect on the changes that I have made during the past years in my pharmacy.

Greening my pharmacy

As a believer in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, I decided as a first step to shift my pharmacy to a new era towards “Green Pharmacy Practice” and expanding greening to my community.

a. Reducing energy consumption and waste
I used the health and technology data accessible to me to help reduce electricity consumption, which has involved relying partially on photocell energy and converting the pharmacy lighting from traditional light bulbs to energy-saving light bulbs.

The pharmacy is adopting a waste recycling system. Daily duties are largely carried out using electronic means / virtual technology. Furthermore, we have installed automated power saving mode for computers and printers.

b. Returning unwanted medicines

Regarding pharmacy initiatives that have been extended to the community, we have adopted a “Take-Back Program” which provides the opportunity for our patients to bring in all old, unused or expired medicines.... More>

Thank you, Carolyn Dewart, and welcome, Sherly Meilianti!

As we approach the end of the year, 2019 YPG Chairperson Carolyn Dewart will finish her term as the co-opted YPG Representative on the HaMIS Executive for 2019. On behalf of the HaMIS ExCo, thank you Carolyn for all you have contributed during your term. It has been great to have you on board and a pleasure to work alongside you!

In the New Year, HaMIS are pleased to welcome Sherly Meilianti as the incoming 2020 YPG Representative on the HaMIS ExCo.

Sherly Meilianti is a registered pharmacist in Indonesia. She worked as the head of the pharmacy department in Eka Hospital Pekanbaru, Indonesia, for four years. After completing her master's degree in Clinical Pharmacy from the University College London (UCL) School of Pharmacy, Sherly decided to pursue a doctorate on pharmacy workforce development... More>

Profiling the HaMIS ExCo

In the lead up to the HaMIS Executive Committee elections which will take place in Seville (at the FIP 2020 Congress), each Info-Link issue will feature insights into different Executive Committee Member’s roles, responsibilities, and what they have found most rewarding during their time in office thus far.
Rian Lelie-van der Zande

What have been your main responsibilities as Executive Committee Member Representative for Europe in the past few years?

My main responsibility has been to organise the yearly HaMIS poster presentation session at the annual FIP Congresses. I also liked to brainstorm ideas for conference sessions and to gather information on conferences in Europe for the Newsletter.

I was also the HaMIS representative on an FIP / Global Self-Care Federation (GSCF) Committee that revised a Statement on Self-Care. The objectives of this statement were to:

- Describe the united role and intention of the pharmacy profession and industry in delivering solutions to people to facilitate self-care, and
- Engage with stakeholders, including governments, to further develop self-care as a core pillar of sustainable healthcare systems.

The members of the committee were from all over the world and the meetings took place online.

What has been rewarding for you whilst serving on the HaMIS ExCo?

I think health and medicines information has common ground with most other Sections. So HaMIS sessions at the Congress are organised in cooperation with other Sections. The cooperation with YPG (Young Pharmacists Group) and IPSF (International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation) has been formalised as part of the HaMIS ExCo and it is nice to hear their views during meetings. I also liked the cooperation with YPG on the judging of the posters very much.

However, the most rewarding for me has been the review of the Self-Care Statement. It is available on the FIP website.

What advice would you give someone thinking about getting more involved in the Section?

Being an ExCo member brings you new experiences, collaboration with pharmacists from other countries, and widens your perspective.
Vivien Tong

What have been your main responsibilities as Executive Committee Member Representative for Asia/Pacific in the past few years?

Over the past few years, I feel privileged to have had the chance to be involved in several HaMIS-related activities and initiatives. Having started out assisting Marielle Nieuwhof in reviewing abstracts submitted to HaMIS for oral and/or poster presentations for the annual FIP World Congress, I am currently the lead HaMIS abstract reviewer and mentor. I work together with a wonderful HaMIS abstract review panel and it is certainly brilliant to see the breadth and quality of health and medicines information-related projects and research studies that are happening all over the globe!

I am also the Info-Link newsletter editor - being the editor involves working with our ExCo to plan a publication schedule, working with HaMIS President Parisa Aslani regarding Info-Link material, and reviewing, formatting, and of course, sending out the newsletter via MailChimp so that we can keep in touch with our Members!

Aside from this, I also try to help out our HaMIS ExCo with other tasks as needed, for example some secretarial-type duties such as taking minutes for our Business Meetings, poster judging, website-related tasks, and session proposal planning. I am happy to help where I can!

What has been rewarding for you whilst serving on the HaMIS ExCo?

Having the opportunity to serve on the HaMIS ExCo and get involved in different activities along the way has been so incredibly rewarding. These recent years have been an irreplaceable, gratifying opportunity to work with such dynamic, passionate HaMIS ExCo members (thank you so much!).

A particularly rewarding contribution I have been able to make was as a member of the HaMIS Working Group on strategic development of medicines information, led by Dr Katri Hämeen-Anttila. Over several years, I am humbled that I could contribute towards the drafting of the report and revision of the FIP Policy Statement on medicine information, and a great session held during the FIP Congress held in Glasgow.

What advice would you give someone thinking about getting more involved in the Section?
There is never a shortage of HaMIS activities that you can help with - and of course, your level and type of involvement is up to you. So please do not hesitate to reach out, introduce yourself, and put your hand up to be an even more active member of the HaMIS family!!! I am so very glad that I did and I hope you will consider getting involved too.

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**Session proposals for FIP 2021 Brisbane**

It is time to plan for the FIP 2021 Congress in Brisbane, Australia. Details of the Congress are:

**Congress Theme** - Together for a healthier world: Global solutions towards 2030

This theme provides the opportunity to present and describe the ways in which pharmacy can contribute to achieving a healthier world.

The Congress will have four tracks to address the overall Congress theme:

- **Track A:** Global solutions for global health challenges
- **Track B:** Together for better health outcomes
- **Track C:** The future – How does it look?
- **Track D:** Miscellaneous and special interests

HaMIS is asking its members to suggest speakers, sessions proposals and workshops, and provide us with any ideas for the FIP 2021 Congress program.

You can suggest speakers who would be able to present about any of the above topics. You can also suggest 1.5 and 3-hour sessions that can range from oral presentations to workshops, focusing on the above Congress theme and tracks.

Please contact Parisa Aslani (parisa.aslani@sydney.edu.au) or Vivien Tong (vivien.tong@sydney.edu.au) with any ideas. We will work with you to develop your session proposals.

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**Upcoming conferences**

1. **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](https://www.pcne.org/conference/27/7th-pcne-working-symposium-2020)
1. FIP Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress
Montreal, Canada
22-27 May 2020
Website: https://pswc2020.congress.pharmacy/

3. International Social Pharmacy Workshop 2020
Sydney, Australia
13-16 July 2020
Theme: ‘A global vision for social pharmacy’
Website: https://expertevents.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/international-social-pharmacy-workshop/info

4. 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
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.