

YPG Report

YPG-IPSF-JPA Lunch
Session at FIP Regional
Conference in Amman
Jordan

2019

Lunch Session Summary

On 26 April 2019, the International Pharmaceutical Students Association (IPSF) EMRO, FIP Young Pharmacists Group (YPG), Jordanian Pharmacy Student's Association (JPSA) and Young Pharmacists from Jordan hosted a lunch session during the FIP Regional Conference in Amman, Jordan. This session was intended to identify educational and professional development needs in order to solve complex health issues in the primary health care and improve health outcomes in their countries and in the region from students and young pharmacists' perspectives.

This session was chaired by Farah Samih Aqqad (JPSA President) and Redouane Soualmi (Member Relations Coordinator of FIP YPG). Mr Dominique Jordan (President of the FIP) opened the session with an introduction and a speech. Mr. Dominique pointed out that young pharmacists are part of the change. We are fighting for the next 40 years to change the future. Two of the challenges we face is that the government does not have money to remunerate for health services and that it is necessary to develop innovative services for patients to optimize their health outcomes. As the next generation, we need to know our value in primary health care. We need to make a difference in our profession to show that we are competent and essential health care providers.

Mr. Dominique also emphasised that the purpose of this session was to discuss student expectations and needs so the FIP can incorporate them with the strategies within the FIP. The FIP acknowledges that young pharmacists are the leaders and the future generation. The FIP has allowed the young pharmacists group within FIP to be an observer in the FIP structure and Mr. Dominique welcome all members to join the YPG in both local and international levels.

The session was then followed by a speech from Ms. Layan Loay Saadeh (IPSF EMRO) about "**Educational needs of EMRO – how to shape a young pharmacist to serve in primary health care?**". Ms. Layan mentioned that when we talked about the needs, there are some questions raised. For example, there is a need for curriculum revision on how to engage more in a practical setting, how to link the science so that the future pharmacists will be prepared for real-life practice within the health care sector. We already have several solutions to improve our pharmaceutical skills and many extracurricular opportunities prepare us for our professional life after graduation. For example, in the middle east, the issue surrounding refugees is an area of opportunity where pharmacy students can gain experience in a unique setting. Multiple NGOs are in need for volunteers and they allow pharmacy students to participate to serve patient needs. IPSF is a leading international advocacy organisation and aims to advocate for pharmacy students to improve public health. Any pharmacy student is eligible to apply for membership. IPSF's largest programme is the student exchange programme, in which students have gained many experiences in countries outside of their native country. IPSF also holds world congresses and regional congresses yearly to excite the youth and engage them in activities that provide students opportunities to have a role and voice in global health. Additionally, IPSF collaborates with other pharmaceutical organisations, such as FIP, YPG and their member organisations from around the world. IPSF provides many opportunities for internships and scholarships for its members. Ms. Layan closed her speech by underscoring the notion that pharmacists must keep up-to-date with the changing world, especially in health care, and never wait for change.

Following Ms. Layan's speech, Mr. Yazan from the young pharmacists' group in Jordan Pharmaceutical Association (JPA) gave a presentation on "**Challenges of practice in EMRO- the transition of pharmacist role in primary health care.**" Mr. Yazan mentioned that we need to have a positive attitude in facing the challenges by seeing the challenges as an opportunity to improve. There is a role changing within pharmacy practice which has become more toward patient oriented. Pharmacists are health care professionals and contribute to optimizing health outcomes for patients. Some challenges of this new role are: 1) We need to know our identity and our role in patient care; 2) Interprofessional communication barriers with the patients and the physicians. Patients perceive pharmacists as drug sales, and physicians perceive pharmacists as a police officer; and 3) We need to establish our role as the medications experts by showing that we have knowledge and skills so that we will be confident and can create a strong patient-pharmacist relationship. Some take-home messages from Mr. Yazan were: 1) Know your identity; 2) Work on interprofessional communication barrier; and 3) Work on your skills and knowledge because, after graduation, you actually continue learning.

The students then were divided into 5 groups and discussed four different topics:

1. Change Group (Pre-graduate education)
2. Future (Post graduate education)
3. Youth power (Pharmaceutical care and patient education)
4. It's time for change (Expanded scope of practice)
5. Mind agonist (Pre-graduate education)

The strengths, challenges and suggested plans of action can be seen in the Table below.

Topic	Strengths	Challenges	Suggested Actions
Pre-graduate/ University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good environment of school ▪ We have 19 pharmacy schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infrastructure of School of Pharmacy need to be efficiently equipped, especially related to professional labs equipment and techniques. ▪ Quantity over quality. There is a need to look over the acceptance criteria of university. ▪ Reassessment of the lecturer/professors. ▪ Access to education is lacking with expensive cost ▪ Curriculum needs update to be more practice oriented and linked student with new innovations, technique, science. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss with universities for some related issue (infrastructure, acceptance criteria of students, assessment of professors) ▪ Online education ▪ Split classroom lectures to smaller classes. ▪ Active learning and blended lecture ▪ Partnership/collaboration with other universities and off-campus activity
Pharmacy workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Passionate student and pharmacists ▪ Basic well-educated pharmacists ▪ Self confidence ▪ Trust from patient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generation Gap between older and younger pharmacists. Old generations are resistant to change ▪ Need national career pathway ▪ Inadequate training ▪ CPD Link between scientific knowledge and practice ▪ Need more opportunities to career development ▪ Need more feasibility of the FIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create JPA YPG to increase awareness of what pharmacists can change ▪ Support from JPA, learning from other countries to help with the implementation ▪ Exchange programs in industry or other workplace ▪ Scholarship/internship from FIP ▪ Webinar or workshop
Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More accessible to patients with no-need for appointment and payments. ▪ Increase job opportunities. ▪ Role of pharmacists in decreasing DRP and public health issue. ▪ Support from FIP and WHO support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Studying pharmacists is becoming a business more than a humanitarian work ▪ Pharmacists tend to work for Medical Representative Job more as it has a higher income. ▪ Regulation need to be modified and enforced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patient counselling room provision ○ Scientific name prescription instead of branding name prescription ▪ Limited role in community pharmacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pharmacists role is covered by other HCPs ○ Opportunities in practice for PhD graduate ▪ Lack of recognition from other HCPs. Physicians consider us as competitors ▪ Challenges from internet when patient can get information easily ▪ Lack of resources for pharmacy practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create JPA YPG to deliver your voice in changing law, mentality and curriculum. ▪ Pharmacists need to brand themselves as a medicines expert through social media and show the impact of pharmacists in society ▪ Support from FIP and JPA for resources

Lunch Session

The lunch session resulted in many active discussions. Students and young graduates were enthusiastic during the session and used the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis to organise discussion. To improve the sessions for the future, it is important that we provide a clearer time schedule that allows for time to discuss the results from the previous leadership meetings to the audience during the lunch session.

Some priorities that we will do from the FIP point of view are:

1. Develop an internship programme of YPG members within the FIP.
We plan to develop this programme next year and collaborate it with the FIP Staff.
2. Webinar in different language focusing on regional needs.
We plan to create a standard form for YPG members or for National/Regional YPGs to suggest some webinar topics. This is to increase engagement with our members.
We will see if we can also provide an English subtitle during the Webinar because some people might also be interested in attending the webinar.
3. Develop a guide for establishing national YPG (YPG Guideline on how to build YPG in a country), so we can provide any assistance for countries who want to develop YPG in their own country.
We plan to review our [current document](#) on this and to invite a national/regional YPG to comment on it, so this guide can be a global guide for helping nations to develop YPG in their own country.
4. Dissemination of the results for the lunch session
We will put this result in our newsletter and also publish it as YPG publication.

Appendix 1. Meeting Notes

Change Group: Pre-graduate Education

Weakness

- Quantity over quality, too many students accepted. So, we need to look over in the acceptance criteria.
- Buildings should be efficiently equipped
- Split classroom lectures to classes
- Professional labs equipment and technique
- Curriculum needs update
- Have to be more practice oriented
- Literature reviews
- Linking us with new innovations, technique, science
- Enforce of COMP education can be part of graduation project
- Blended lecture

Threats

- Professors lecture us in the old conventional way, they have to be reassessed periodically

Pre-graduate Topic

- Curriculum -practice oriented, linked with other universities
- New activities-on-campus education
- Linked with other universities and off campus
- Professor → re-assess periodically
- Building infrastructure, spread lecture, smaller group in each class to more qualified, more professional-->lab more comment

Future Group: Post graduate education

Strength:

- Self-confidence → Provide trust to patient
- Expensive cost → access to education
- Lacking tools → diversity
- Time restriction → not easy to find
- Higher change
- Regulation not followed regularly
- Media – engagement event → follow some, follow more regulation

Strengths

- Progression and sustainability
- Better health care quality
- Trust (Self-confidence)

Weaknesses

- Expensive. It is not cheap and affordable even with scholarship
- Lacking tools and diversity
- Time restriction-->other life needs

Opportunities

- Exchanging experience
- Higher chances

Threats

- Old generations are resistant to change. We still wrong from old generation perspectives even we say the right thing.

Appendix 1. Meeting Notes

- Regulations are not followed accurately
- They might not comply

Solutions

- Media rules by syndicate; online education
- JPA can help even if the people who are working change every 304 years. Also, they need someone unbiased
- But we need to let the pharmacists.

Expanded scope of practice

- Most accessible workforce, increase job opportunities, decrease DRP, decrease public health issue.
- Inadequate training
- Make practice focus
- Take new roles and expansion to be trained.
- Need people who are unbiased to help
- Certified technicians; appropriate of patient-->electronic
- Public awareness; prescribing and medicines challenges.
- Can help with conducting PHC
- FIP and WHO; expand scope
- Take other experience to help with implementation
- Prescribing for minor illness; In confidence to do that → Older pharmacist not happy with idea
- Expand and train, pharmacists to be more competent

Scope of pharmacy practice

Strength

- We are drug experts
- Accessibility
- Inexpensive for patients
- Saving time
- Job opportunities
- Increase profit
- Minimise DRP
- Decrease public health issue

Weakness

- Inadequate training
- Workflow or pharmacy design
- Increase expenses
- Training and knowledge
- Lack of patients trust
- Lack of HER
- Lack of up to date
- Chronic drug information
- Resources in pharmacy

Opportunities

- We have 19 pharmacy schools
- FIP and WHO support
- Previous success

Threats

- Regulations
- Physicians
- In confidence pharmacists

Appendix 1. Meeting Notes

- Infrastructure

Youth power

Pharmaceutical care and patient education

Strength

- Better knowledge in medication of drug interactions in addition to clinical issues
- More accessible to patients with no-need for appointment plus payments
- Dispensing medication in pharmacy for therapeutic use
- Pharmacists have the needed knowledge regarding dispensing drugs and patient counselling, so they should really implement in the practice

Opportunities

- Patient counselling room for each pharmacy
- The physician must write the scientific name of medication
- Collaboration between pharmacists and physicians
- Quality oriented practice courses in curriculum

Weaknesses

- Hard to follow up
- Transformation of pharmacist's profession to be more as a trade
- Physicians consider us as competitors who follow their mistakes
- Limited roles of community pharmacists
- No appropriate practices
- No good raining and practice for students

Threat

- Our role is covered by other HCPs
- Too many Number of graduates
- Alternative resources-->people can get information easily
- Low quality of pharmacies
- Raise salaries for MR so we are heading for MR more (Higher income as medical reps which direct pharmacists from others.
- Redirection

Pharmaceutical caring and patient counselling

Strength

- Better knowledge
- Accessible workforce
- Weakness
- Hard to follow up with pharmacists
- Another think that it is competitive
- Limited role in community
- No appropriate practice

Appendix 1. Meeting Notes

- Patient counselling room

- Scientific name prescription
- Better collaboration
- Quality oriented practice in curricula
- Challenges from internet
- Curriculum based problem
- Salary from medical representative
- Generation gap
- Practice pharmacy
- School-->in community only
- Not know about working hospital, don't know where to go.
- PHD it is the same at the end
- Scholarship from FIP?
- Do not know FIP
- Be part of YPG
- Webinar internationally

Mind agonist

Pre-graduate

- Basic level
- Passionate pharmacists
- Generation gap-->JPA YPG Office
- Practice pharmacy-->school-->in community only, now know working hospital, don't know where to go
- PhD take 6 years, don't have opportunities for that
- At the end it is the same
- Scholarship form FIP
- Don't know FIP-->local pharmacy association willing to be part of YPG
- Webinars internationally

Strengths

- Good environment
- Basic well-educated pharmacists
- Passion pharmacists to change without opportunities
- Well skilled

Weaknesses

- Practice pharmacists' fields
- Internship
- Generation gap (there is a gap between graduates that older people believe that they are the only one who say everything right)
- Webinars (workshops about ENVO and the meaning of being the pharmacists)
- PhD no opportunities (PharmD students' study 6 years and work in Jordan same as pharmacists)
- Curriculum of universities are very old
- Opportunities
- Exchange programs
- Industries (industrial works)
- Good # of factories
- Universities connection available but not well used
- Young pharmacists are ambitious
- Scholarships from FIP or even paid
- Threats
- Long #s of students and fresh graduates with small #s of internships
- Studying pharmacists is becoming a business more than a humanitarian work

Appendix 1. Meeting Notes

- Want JPA to have young group of pharmacists
- We only practice at community pharmacists and we know nothing about other opportunities
- We have concerns about your roles and what is your objectives
- We need international webinars.
- Ready for practice
- Postgraduate, CPD
- Link to scientific
- Knowledge to practice
- Support from JPA
- Learning process in university
- Increase awareness of pharmacist can do
- Involve YPG pharmacists
- Clear communicate-->every working group-->Try to be part for YPG.
- Someone needs to fight and say what they want to say.
- Are you proud to be a pharmacist? What is the magic value to be pharmacists?
- How can we move the change?
- Make a group
- To be active in charge-->do it! Don't wait
- Change law, mentality, curriculum
- If you are not competent, you cannot deliver-->part of PHC
- Mind change
- The quality of student in the beginning study is important for continuous and professional development
- Population does not trust pharmacists --> In Europe the second most trustable pharmacists
- Broad services in pharmacy profession
- The feasibility of FP-->the regional conference-->university
- And with FIP/YPG, more feasibility.
- Pharmacists contribution of NCDs, reflect as practitioners, appropriate level of documentation
- Quantity and quality of evidence of argument