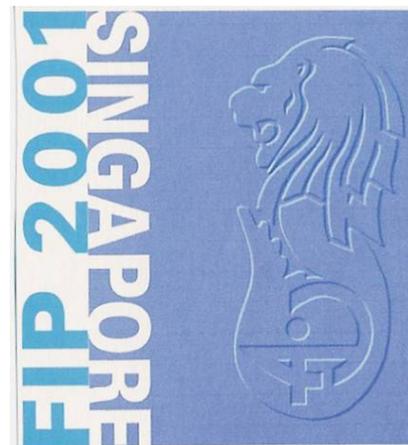


61st FIP Congress Singapore



The 2001 Annual Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences — FIP's 61st World Congress — took place in Singapore from 2 to 6 September, focusing on the theme of *Combining Practice and Science to Extend Horizons*.

Singapore proved to be an excellent venue and both the host and programme committees are due warm congratulations from the nearly three-thousand participants who attended from eighty-five different countries.

The opening ceremony struck just the right note with the Singapore Health Minister and Second Finance Minister, Mr Lim Hng Kiang (left), paying tribute to Singaporean pharmacists' contribution to the nation's health services.

The FIP President, Dr Peter Kielgast (right), then explored the role of pharmacy in the global economy during his keynote address, which focused on *Partnerships in Health*. For the full text of the keynote speech, please click [here](#).

Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Dr Robert Osterhaus (United States), pictured left, and Mr Peter Rollason (Zimbabwe), on the right. The Awards, given for "exemplary service and commitment to their profession throughout their careers", were presented by Dr Dieter Steinbach, Chairman of the FIP Foundation for Education and Research.

The Høst-Madsen Medal, FIP's highest scientific honour, was awarded to Dr Leslie Benet (United States) by FIP President Peter Kielgast. The medal presentation is shown on the right.

The Opening Ceremony also afforded a first glimpse of the "Singapore Heartbeat" programme with dancers (left) and the superb Singapore Youth Choir.

The new Congress structure proved a resounding success, with many eminent speakers participating in sessions organised by the Boards of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmaceutical Practice, as well as in joint seminars. The main problem was often deciding which of the many parallel sessions to attend!

Over four-hundred posters on pharmaceutical science and practice-related research were also on display (right) and provided excellent opportunities for discussion and the sharing of experiences through-out the days.

All the major current issues in pharmacy practice were tackled, both in the main and section sessions. Not surprisingly, electronic commerce and communication, as well as the implications of the Internet for pharmacy, featured prominently in the pharmacy practice programme.

The scientific programme highlighted rational approaches to drug discovery, design and development. Genomics was the theme of one of the symposia organised jointly by the Boards of Pharmacy Practice and Pharmaceutical Science, while Council — FIP's highest body — approved a position paper on *Genomics and Beyond* at its third meeting during Congress. Council also adopted a statement of principles governing electronic prescribing with the interests of patients as the paramount concern.

An extremely well-attended symposium on *Pharmacists and Physicians in the Value Chain* provoked discussion and debate regarding the role of the pharmacist, together with the need for pharmacists, not only to advocate and fully take up their role as health-care experts, but to work in cooperation with other health-care professionals. For

FIP's role in creating and maintaining world standards in pharmacy was highlighted by Council's adoption of three statements of principle and professional standards regarding *Electronic Prescribing*, *Pharmaceutical Research in Geriatric Subjects* and *The Pharmacist's Responsibility and Role in Teaching Children and Adolescents about Medicines*, as well as Guidelines on *Professional Standards for the Labels of Prescribed Medicines* and the position paper on *Genomics and Beyond* mentioned above.

Council also admitted seven new member organisations, respectively from Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. FIP welcomes our new member organisations and anticipates their active contribution to world pharmacy.

Congresses are, of course, not only remembered for their scientific and professional programmes, but also for their social content — both the organised events and the encounter with so many colleagues from other countries. Again, Singapore proved to be an excellent venue for both activities. Many will have left the Lion City having forged friendships that will endure for many years. The fact that forty percent of the participants were attending an FIP Congress for the first time is of particular importance and FIP looks forward to meeting all of the participants in this year's Congress again during Nice 2002.

COUNCIL STATEMENTS

New Statements and Guidelines Adopted by FIP Council in Singapore

One of FIP's major tasks is to set world standards for pharmacy and pharmaceutical science. This year, FIP Council adopted the statements that are listed below (together with descriptions of each document).

FIP Statement of Principle:

The Pharmacist's Responsibility and Role in Teaching Children and Adolescents About Medicines

This Statement advocates and supports extending the important role of the pharmacist in disseminating information and advising patients about medicines to children and adolescents. It highlights the need for the professional education of pharmacists to equip and motivate them to educate children and adolescents and their parents about medicines and provides a list of recommendations for pharmacists, professional associations, educators, researchers and governments to work together in this area and to develop and utilise the skills of pharmacists as recognised experts on medicines

FIP Statement of Principle:

Pharmaceutical Research in Geriatric Subjects

Due to ageing-related body changes, coexisting diseases, and the simultaneous use of other medicines the safety and efficacy of medicinal therapies in older people may differ significantly from younger patients. Therefore, in this statement, FIP recommends that older people, in various age groups, should be included in clinical trials, and outlines the steps that should be taken by researchers, the pharmaceutical industry and regulatory agencies to improve clinical trials and the world-wide dissemination of information.

FIP Statement of Professional Standards:

Electronic Prescriptions

In this statement, FIP supports the use of electronic technology to improve current hand-written or typed prescription orders, to assist physicians and pharmacists in the provision of efficient, high quality care. The need to do set up a system with uniform standards is highlighted. As well as a list of principles, which must be taken into account when setting national standards for safe drug therapy, is also provided.

FIP Guidelines:

Labelling of Prescribed Medicines

This set of guidelines describes the purpose of labels for prescribed medicines, describes individualised primary patient information, defines an absolute minimum of information for labels of prescribed medicines, and defines the proper design of the labels to maximise readability and understanding. It is also recommended that all pharmacists should contribute to Good Labelling of Prescribed Medicines (GLPM) and that national associations should adapt these guidelines and incorporate them into their national standards of Good Pharmacy Practice.

FIP Position Paper:**Genomics and Beyond**

In realising the potential of genomics, this paper examines the impact of genomics on the discovery and development of genetically-based medicines; in particular, the many issues for consideration in light of the changes in approaches to drug discovery and development, to policy issues relating to the nature and role of standards for a rapidly evolving technology and in the shift from diagnosis and treatment to prediction and prevention. As a Position Paper, this document has been created based on the current state of knowledge on the subject at this time and will be subject to continual revision in light of the rapidly developing knowledge and changing circumstances.