



## Health and Medicines Information Section Annual Report 2021

I would like to pre-phrase this report also by expressing my most sincere gratitude to the many members across the various disciplines we represent - from policy development to clinical trials planning and execution and from drug information centres to vaccination service centres – who were really amongst the main experts managing our health systems in these trying times. As individuals and as a community we have learned a lot and we hope soon there will be the time to sit back, analyse and learn from it. Thank you colleagues for the fantastic work!

### **Engagement activities**

With only couple of virtual touch points with the members and colleagues throughout the year we have increased the frequency of our ExCO meeting to once monthly with a strong emphasis on the regional work done by our representatives in middle east / Africa, and Americas leading with strong engagement locally. Our ExCO members participated in a number of local events virtually or where possible live to represent the section as well as FIP. Those included:

- 1.) Presentation on behalf of the Section and FIP at a meeting for the **GuangDong Pharmaceutical Association (GDPA), China** covering the FIP development goals and coming in on the FIP stewardship and tool kits in the field of patient safety.
- 2.) Presentation at a meeting of the **Egyptian pharmacists** focussing on the regional cooperation, focussing on the activities and opportunities to engage with our Section

### **HaMIS @ FIP Digital Events**

Members of the Section continued to contribute and ensure the delivery various high quality digital events part of the FIP Agenda for 2022.

### **The HaMIS Stipend**

The deadline for applying for the 2022 FIP HaMIS stipend has recently closed. 71 applications (compared to 60 in 2020) were received from 27 countries (compared to 23 in 2020): Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Montenegro, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The 2022 recipient of the Health and Medicines Information Stipend to attend the FIP Congress in Seville is Marlita Putri Ekasari from Indonesia. Marlita is a junior researcher and PhD student who is studying medicines labelling. They have submitted an abstract to the Congress on "the

Appropriateness of Secondary Medicine Packaging for People with Visual Impairment"; a subject of particular relevance to the section. They have recently joined FIP.

This year, we are also providing the second stipend, for the winner or the delayed 2020 Health and Medicines Information Stipend. Both awardees will be attending the Congress in Seville and will present on their research.

### Info-Link

The Section continues with its Newsletter, and aims to publish four issues per year. We are planning a special 100<sup>th</sup> issue, also marking 25 years of continuous section publication! We plan a special issue with many of the past presidents contributing to the issue.

### Working Groups

The Section currently has three Working Groups:

- **Digital Health** – led by Mr. Ardi Mirzaei and Prof. Parisa Aslani.  
The group works in coordination with the FIP Digital Forum.
- **Improving written discharge medication information for culturally and linguistically diverse communities** – led by Dr Vivien Tong and Prof. Parisa Aslani, who provided the following report:  
*"The activities of the HaMIS Working Group centred on improving written discharge medication information for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities have comprised a stepwise approach. The first step involved the initial development of written discharge medication information (WDMI) templates in English, Vietnamese, and Traditional and Simplified Chinese, followed by pilot user testing with bilingual people. The WDMI templates were then revised based on the user testing findings, in preparation for the next research stage. Given the evolving COVID-19 circumstances over the past 2 years, this has limited the ability to conduct further face-to-face, iterative user testing of the developed WDMI template(s) with people. Subsequently, pharmacists' perspectives on the revised WDMI templates (English versions) are being explored via an ongoing series of in-depth interviews via telephone/video-conferencing. These pharmacist interviews aim to gain an understanding of the WDMI currently being provided in Australian hospitals, barriers and facilitators to existing WDMI formats relevant for CALD communities and opportunities to improve WDMI. Data from the interviews conducted to date have been analysed and the WDMI template(s) has been subsequently refined based on the pharmacist feedback received thus far. Further refinement of the template(s) may be needed once data saturation has been reached for the interviews, in preparation for when face-to-face user testing of the WDMI templates will resume."*
- **Medication and driving: two decades later**; this project has been initiated with the idea to measure the impact of the FIP policy paper on medicines and driving which was spearheaded by our section under the leadership of Han de Gier in collaboration with the University of Groningen. The project is executed in collaboration with our member organization in The Netherlands KNMP, and aims to conduct a survey, focussed on the European region of FIP members to evaluate the impact of the policy paper and the way it was transposed into the national regulations in the member countries. The report will be presented later in the year at an international conference in Rotterdam as well as during the FIP Congress.
- HaMIS Executive Committee members have had initial discussions at a request from Regis Vaillancourt regarding developing a collaborative project between the FIP Foundation, and couple of interested member organizations to taking the FIP Pictograms project forward. The FIP Foundation has supported the FIP pictograms over several years and given the role of

pictograms in communicating health and medicines information, their relevance to health literacy suggests potential for collaboration that is within scope for HaMIS and its membership. A project plan and a working group will be set as soon as the work requires it.

### **Involvement with FIP Activities**

Members of FIP have been involved with various FIP initiatives:

- FIP Working Group on Policy Statements
- FIP Patient Safety Reference Document
- FIP Patient Safety Policy Statement
- Feedback on WHO Documents
- Delivering webinar on HaMIS (with YPG)
- FIP Technology Forum
- Policy Committee on FIP's Role in Medicine Shortages

Goals in 2022:

- Goal #1: Continuation of the Working Groups activities
- Goal #2: Focus on the FIP Congress and relaunch of the congress planning for the upcoming congress.