



Military and Emergency Pharmacy Section Annual Report 2024

Section accomplishments during the 2024 calendar year

MEPs held one board meeting this year, in addition to online working. At the MEPS Business meeting in Cape Town, members elected Ms. Petra Straight (Australia) as Secretary and Ms. Nita Sood (The United States) as Vice president.

MEPS had a successful Congress in Cape Town with representation from 19 countries, including many from the South Africa. MEPs members presented on a diverse range of topics including: Challenges with distribution, by sea, COVID-19 vaccine to the Tokelau Island group in the Pacific; Use of pharmacy electronic health record clinical decision support tool to optimise military readiness; Malaysian military pharmacy involvement in hospital procurement; Pharmacist roles within the South African military ; The role of the pharmaceutical officer in Japanese Medical Services Defence Forces and The development of a training program for pharmacists on blood and blood products. In addition to these presentations MEPs organised a session on International Humanitarian Law: access to medicines. In addition to conference session MEPs also organised an offsite visit to 2 Military Hospital, a visit of the SAS Amatola, a Frigate and the SAS King Sekhukhune I, a Multi-role patrol vessel both at Simon's Town Naval Base. The trip allowed MEPs members the chance to engage with experts, discuss innovative solutions, and explore potential partnerships that could enhance the effectiveness of pharmaceutical care in both military and emergency settings.

Over the course of the year MEPs worked with the FIP Bureau to establish a Humanitarian and Resilience Advisory Group. This group will be separate from MEPS but will report through MEPS. The purpose of this group is for members of civilian responder organisations to be able to work together to advise FIP on humanitarian matters and to problem solve as required, linking in with the FIP Humanity project.

MEPS members in collaboration with the FIP office completed an analysis of FIP's humanitarian responses to determine how these, possibly, could be improved.

The MEPS WhatsApp group continues to be very active. The group provides a support network for pharmacists who are deployed or those working in planning activities allowing brainstorming and sharing of information to help pharmacists improve access to medicines in MEPS settings in line with FIP development Goal 18. The group is also a valuable source for networking.

Projects:

1. MEPS is working in collaboration with CPS on a project entitled 'Community Pharmacies as emergency First Aid Centres'.
2. Develop a training on the management of blood and blood products for pharmacists in deployed locations.

Newsletters: 4

Number of Webinars: 3

Section goals for the 2025 calendar year (please limit to most relevant 2-3 goals)

- Goal #1: To actively work at maintaining connectedness amongst the Section members
- Goal #2: To work on MEPS internal projects in order to support applied emergency and humanitarian practice.
- Goal #3: To support and engage with the Humanitarian Resilience Advisory Group and Humanity Rx.