Greetings once again! This is the second issue of the Taskforce’s monthly e-newsletter. The newsletter features upcoming events, news and updates, workshop results, recent publications and resources. It will be sent out at the beginning of each month to the Taskforce Community of Practice. If you have any information you would like to include, please send it to me at education@fip.org by the 20th of each month.

Sincerely,

Sarah Whitmarsh
Communications Liaison
Pharmacy Education Taskforce

News and Updates

The Taskforce held two successful meetings at the FIP Congress in Basel on the 1st and 3rd of September. The workshop on the 1st kicked off our country case studies, the second phase of the Pharmacy Education Action Plan 2008-2010. Representatives from six of the seven African countries participating in the studies were able to attend the workshop, in which participants brainstormed the objectives, principles and elements of methodology for the case studies. The countries currently taking part in the studies are: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The 3rd Global Education Consultation gathered the largest audience to date, drawing more than 90 participants. During the consultation, the “Global Framework for Quality Assurance in Pharmacy Education” was officially launched by QA project lead Mike Rouse. Also, the six Country Case Leads gave an impromptu panel presentation on the situation of pharmacy education in their countries and received support, encouragement, questions and comments from the audience. Reports from the two sessions will be available on the COP on the week of 6th October.

An updated version of the Pharmacy Education Taskforce website went live at the start of the FIP Congress on 1 Sept. Check it out at www.fip.org/education.

FIP and the WHO are working together with Country Case Study Leads in Zambia and Ghana to develop and test institutional self-assessment guidelines. For more information email: Mike Rouse mrouse@acpe-accredit.org

The Global Pharmacy Education Development Network, a UNITWIN of 22 institutions, has been approved and a formal agreement is currently being prepared. To view the UNITWIN proposal, go to http://tiny.cc/GPEmR or within the COP, go to the Library>>UNITWIN: Global Pharmacy Education Development Network.
Resources

The WHO and has recently announced the launch of an *International Joint Special Issue* on the theme "Towards a scaling-up of training and education for health workers." The International Joint Issue is led by WHO and the *Human Resources for Health* Journal (www.human-resources-health.com) and constitutes the collaboration of over 20 top medical journals, who will each contribute in their own unique way, over the coming 12 months, to the theme of scaling up training and education of health workers. Each journal will address the critical need for a skilled, sustainable health workforce in the developing world and internationally. So far, five of the partnering journals - including *Human Resources for Health* - have already published their contributing issues. They can be accessed on-line from the following links. Some are also available in print.

*American Journal of Public Health (USA):* [http://www.ajph.org/content/vol98/issue9/](http://www.ajph.org/content/vol98/issue9/)

*Ciência & Saúde Coletiva (Brazil):* [http://www.abrasco.org.br/cienciaesaudecoletiva/index.php](http://www.abrasco.org.br/cienciaesaudecoletiva/index.php)

*Croatian Medical Journal (Croatia):* [http://www.cmj.hr/2008/49/3/4903.htm](http://www.cmj.hr/2008/49/3/4903.htm)

*Education For Health (USA):* [http://educationforhealth.net/articles/defaultnew.asp](http://educationforhealth.net/articles/defaultnew.asp)

*Human Resources for Health* will publish articles on the theme on an ongoing basis up to June 2009. For updates as the other partnering journals publish, please see the announcements on the *Human Resources for Health* blog: [http://blogs.openaccesscentral.com/blogs/hrhblog/](http://blogs.openaccesscentral.com/blogs/hrhblog/).

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Dick Heller has announced that Peoples Open Access Educational Initiative, the Peoples-uni, offers low cost Internet based capacity building in Public Health for low-income countries. Heller is the Emeritus Professor at Universities of Manchester, UK, and Newcastle, Australia and Coordinator for Peoples-Uni. Six course modules are now open for enrolment through [http://peoples-uni.org](http://peoples-uni.org). Dick Heller can be contacted at rfheller@peoples-uni.org.

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WHO invites Member States, health workers, recruiters, employers, academic and research institutions, health professional organizations, relevant subregional, regional and international organizations, whether governmental or nongovernmental, and all persons concerned with the international recruitment of health personnel to contribute to the web-based public hearings on a draft code of practice on the international recruitment of health personnel between 1st and 30 September 2008.


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AuthorAID is a resource for researchers in low-income countries looking to publish their work. AuthorAID is a free international research community AuthorAID is a pioneering program based at the *International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications* (INASP). It is supported by the *Swedish International Development Corporation Agency* (Sida) and the UK *Department for International Development* (DFID). To find out more about AuthorAID, go to [http://www.authoraid.info/about/what-is-authoraid](http://www.authoraid.info/about/what-is-authoraid).

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From the Vision and Competency Project Team...

In August, the Pharmacy Education Taskforce members Ian Bates (Director) and Andreia Bruno attended the 54th *International Pharmacy Students’ Federation* (IPSF) Congress and presented the Action Plan to students and the new Executive. IPSF have ongoing projects on students’ perspectives about their curricula and their education and are planning a further survey focusing on the teaching and learning of “Professionalism” in
pharmacy programmes, which has potential as a further collaborative project for the Taskforce or the collaborating centre.

During the 68th FIP Congress, both Ian Bates and Andreia Bruno gave short presentations to inform participants about the Competency and Vision project. Ian highlighted several concepts around the difficult areas of professional competence and practitioner performance, and outlined how these would form the basis of the Taskforce work streams for the coming year. He finished by asking the audience to consider the concepts of “workforce”, “competencies”, “development”, “effectiveness” and “saving lives” and to rearrange these words into a global vision for pharmacy education! The intention was to prompt the audience into thinking about the “vision thing” and to illustrate the direction of travel for the taskforce. Andreia Bruno reported on the outcomes of competency-culture workshop held at the International Social Pharmacy Workshop, where the need for a global competency framework was recognized, but questions still remained on how this could be accomplished.

In the next few months, Andreia Bruno will be gathering competency frameworks (documents), qualifications frameworks, benchmarks standards or equivalent (for pharmacy) to codify and analyse the similarities and differences between them. If you would like to contribute to this project, for example, by sending your country competency framework or documents please email andreia.bruno@pharmacy.ac.uk.

From the Quality Assurance Project Team...

The FIP Bureau has formally approved a new document that incorporates core principles and elements considered essential for an effective approach to quality assurance of pharmacy education. The “Global Framework for Quality Assurance of Pharmacy Education” was initiated as a project of the FIP International Forum for Quality Assurance of Pharmacy Education, a network established in 2001, which operates under the auspices of FIP’s Academic Section.

Mike Rouse, Assistant Executive Director, International and Professional Affairs, of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and project lead for the Pharmacy Education Taskforce’s quality assurance team, said that the framework was intended to be a tool that governments or institutions could use to establish or further develop quality assurance systems.

“FIP was ideally placed to promote and facilitate information exchange and international collaboration in the area of quality assurance of pharmacy education. We believe that the Framework will raise awareness of issues related to educational quality, help to promote an institutional culture of continuous quality improvement, and serve as a basis for the introduction and improvement of quality assurance systems and the development of much-needed standards for education where they don’t exist.”

In recent years, pharmacy practice and education have undergone unprecedented change as the role of the pharmacist as part of a health care team has been increasingly recognized, valued and expanded. Still, many countries are faced with critical shortages of pharmacy workforce. In order to reduce the shortage and met health service demands, many countries are introducing, expanding or undertaking major reform of pharmacy education. “These developments must be accompanied by robust and valid systems to assure the quality of education,” Rouse said. Quality educational structures, processes and outcomes will lead to graduates who are competent and capable of performing safely and effectively in their practice setting and contributing to the delivery of healthcare, he said.

But setting up one system of quality assurance and one standard for pharmacy education globally is unrealistic, he said. In many countries, quality assurance systems are well-developed; in others, they are nonexistent. Furthermore, educational and health systems and societal needs differ from country to country. Despite these differences, core elements and principles of quality assurance should remain essentially the same, he said. Thus, the framework is intended as a foundation that can be adapted and built-upon to suit national needs, systems and conditions. It was designed to be used at a national level in the context of quality assurance for pharmacy education specifically, but it may also be applied to all levels of formal education,
Rouse said.

The framework was adopted as one of the three priority projects of the Pharmacy Education Taskforce. Established in November 2007, the Pharmacy Education Taskforce is a joint initiative of FIP, WHO and UNESCO and works to enable the sustainability of a pharmacy workforce that is relevant to local needs.

To download the Framework through the Community of Practice Library, click here.

**From the Academic and Institutional Capacity Project Team...**

A Memorandum of Understanding is in development with WHO to establish the pharmacy education component of the Avicenna directories, the global directories of education institutions for health professions.

**Contact**

If you would like more information about the Pharmacy Education Taskforce, please contact education@fip.org.

**Project Team Leads**

Project Team Leads are responsible for overseeing and developing activities in each priority domain of work to achieve the Action Plan’s objectives.

Academic and Institutional Capacity – Claire Anderson, claire.anderson@nottingham.ac.uk  
Vision and Competency – Ian Bates, ian.bates@pharmacy.ac.uk  
Quality Assurance – Mike Rouse, mrouse@acpe-accredit.org