WHO UNESCO FIP Pharmacy Education Taskforce

News and Updates

FIP Council Approves QA Policy Statement

During 69th World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Istanbul, FIP Council approved the FIP Statement of Policy on Quality Assurance of Pharmacy Education. The statement recommends that "in order to support the development of an adequate and appropriate pharmacy workforce and the academic and institutional infrastructure to deliver the required competency-based education and training, each country should have its own standards-based system for the quality assurance of pharmacy education."

According to the statement, a standards-based Quality Assurance system should:

▪ Reflect the vision for pharmacy practice and education that has been developed through profession-wide consensus

▪ Allow appropriate input from all stakeholders, including students and the public

▪ Ensure that educational programs are evidence and competency-based, of high quality and meet the needs of the people, the pharmacists and their country

▪ Evaluate programmatic outcomes as well as institutional structures and processes

▪ Be transparent and be free of inappropriate influences and appearances of conflicts of interest in its development and implementation

▪ Promote and foster self-assessment and continuous quality improvement of educational institutions

▪ Be accountable to the appropriate governmental authorities

The statement also recommends and encourages action by National Governments, Regulatory and Quality Assurance Organisations, Member Organisations, and Universities, Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy.   It is meant to be a companion piece to FIP's *Statement of Policy on Good Pharmacy Education Practice* and is supported by the *Global Framework for Quality Assurance of Pharmacy Education*.

The policy statement is available to download in the COP library under Quality Assurance Resources, the Taskforce website (Resources and Links), or on the FIP website at:
http://www.fip.org/www/?page=statements.

Consultation report published
The report from the 4th Annual Global Pharmacy Education Consultation, held in September at FIP
Congress 2009 in Istanbul, as well as presentations given by the Taskforce team are available to download
from the COP Library under " Taskforce consultations and events" or the website:
http://drop.io/PETconsultation.

It was a very successful session, with more than 120 attendees. Several activities emerged across the
roundtable discussion with regard to a potential role for of FIP in pharmacy education:

(1) FIP should continue to strengthen partnerships with global organisations such as UNESCO and
WHO, and also facilitate the formation of new partnerships at the regional and national level
with Ministries of Education and Health, universities, professional bodies, regulators and
accreditation organisations.

(2) FIP should be an advocate for pharmacy education in activities to
   a. encourage pharmacists to undertake teacher training
   b. encourage academic institutions to implement the Quality Assurance Framework and
      other types of self-assessment
   c. develop key messages about the role of pharmacists and pursue resolutions at the
      WHO-level
   d. promote needs-based education
   e. establish a World Pharmacy Day

(3) FIP can provide opportunities, tools and resources for
   a. Joint research, especially in developing countries
   b. Teacher training
   c. Student assessment
   d. Continuing professional development

The Taskforce and FIP will be reviewing the recommendations/ideas from the consultation
participants and will be putting together an action plan for post-2010 work.

Taskforce Publications
The Taskforce has had an article published in the online development magazine Health Exchange News
about the country case study workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya, this summer. Check it out at:
http://healthexchangenews.com/2009/10/23/pharmacy-schools/.

Former FIP Project Manager Tana Wuliji's article on pharmacy workforce migration also appeared in this
issue at: **http://healthexchangenews.com/2009/10/22/managing-pharmacist-migration**/.

You can follow us at the Pharmacy Education Taskforce's Twitter page at:
http://twitter.com/phrmcyeducation.

Taskforce Events
The Taskforce is organising a pre-conference satellite symposium for FIP Congress 2010 in Lisbon entitled
"How to develop academic capacity to ensure seamless education." Please mark your calendars for
Saturday, 28th August 2010. More details to follow.

Update from UNESCO
Dr Akemi Yonemura, Program Specialist for UNESCO Department of Higher Education, shared valuable
resources during her presentation at the 4th Annual Global Pharmacy Education Consultation. Her full

presentation powerpoint slides are available in the COP Library under "Taskforce consultation and events." Some of the resources she mentioned are compiled below:

The Communique from UNECO's **2009 World Conference on Higher Education**, is available to download at **http://www.unesco.org/en/wche2009/.**

UNESCO-World Bank Global Initiative Global Initiative on Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC), which supports higher education in developing countries and countries in transition, was launched in January 2008 for a 3-year period. GIQAC assists emerging quality assurance systems in building capacity by sharing information on good practices world-wide, facilitating communication among the diverse set of agencies and professionals, and supporting the production of analyses and guidelines. Regional Partners for this initiative include:
- Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), http://www.apqn.org
- Red Iberoamericana para la Acreditación de la Calidad de la Educación Superior (RIACES), http://www.riaces.net
- Quality Assurance Support Programme for African Higher Education: African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN)
- Association of African Universities http://www.aau.org
- Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE)
- http://www.anqahe.org
- International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) http://www.inqaahe.org

UNESCO-Hewlett Packard Brain Gain Initiative 2009-2011 is a project that aims to help create a sustainable African university e-infrastructure for science bringing together a majority of Higher Education Institutions and research centers in Africa and the Arab States region. More information is available at**: http://www.unesco.org/en/braingain.**

Resources
The 2009 Global Pharmacy Workforce Report is available for free download from **www.fip.org/hr**.

The **African Health OER Network** is a new initiative to engage medical educationalists in sharing their existing educational materials under creative commons license. African Health OER (Open Educational Resources) Network is one thematic strand of a broader initiative, OER Africa. The Network aims to address the urgent need for resources in African higher education by facilitating a programme of inter-continental resource sharing. For more information, go to: **http://www.oerafrica.org**.

Open access pictogram software launched by the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and FIP is available online. The software can be used to facilitate to improve patients' understanding of how to use medicines. An introductory video (in both French and English) and the software can be downloaded from: **http://www.fip.org/www/index.php?page=pp_sect_maepsm_pictogram.**

Events
The WHO Collaborating Centre call for Health Workforce Planning and Information is organizing an **International Conference on Research in Human Resources for Health** in June 2010. The Conference aims to strengthen evidence and knowledge with respect to health workforce development and to promote the use of innovative methodological approaches, data or tools, to measure and monitor health workforce capacity to respond to public health needs. The call for papers, published in English, Portuguese and Spanish, invite researchers to submit an abstract, which may be from a country-specific, regional, or global perspective. More information is available at: **http://www.obsnetims.org.br/ver_evento.asp?id=64.**

The Hanoi University of Pharmacy in Vietnam is hosting a conference **"Enhancing the pharmacist training quality in the integration"** from December 12 to 14, 2009. The conference aims to exchange experiences and opinions, discuss pharmaceutical training quality and reform of the curriculum in the region, and share strategies for development. For more information, contact **dhduocdn@netnam or vandhienhup@gmail.com**.

<u>Pharmacy Education Advocacy – Discussion</u>

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy recently sponsored "American Pharmacy Educator Week." The first-ever event, held Oct. 25th to 31st, promoted careers in pharmacy education and honoured innovative discoveries and accomplishments of pharmaceutical scientists and educators. Similarly, the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda and the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association's "Pharmacy Awareness Week" included a pharmacy education workshop. How does your country or organisation promote pharmacy education or pharmacy educators? What is your experience in holding these events? Please share your thoughts in the next newsletter or in a discussion on the Community of Practice.

Contact

 If you would like more information about the Pharmacy Education Taskforce or have any feedback on the Taskforce Newsletter, please contact Sarah Whitmarsh, Communications Liaison, at education@fip.org. If you have any information you would like to include in this newsletter, please also send it to her by the 1st of each month.

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.
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