

CENTENNIAL DECLARATION

Improving Global Health by Closing Gaps in the Development, Distribution, and Responsible Use of Medicines

Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical scientists¹ accept responsibility and accountability for improving global health and patient health outcomes by closing gaps in the development, distribution, and responsible use of medicines. Society can contribute to these objectives by supporting the advancement of pharmacy practice and the pharmaceutical sciences.

Leading Change

As pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists, we are experts in the development, distribution, and responsible use of medicines. We are committed to ensuring optimal outcomes from medication therapy through patient-centered care. We recognize that the health of patients and populations is compromised and the value of medicines is diminished when medicines are not accessible, are of inferior quality, or are used inappropriately. These complex problems are beyond the reach of any single scientific field or profession, but our sense of obligation to society motivates us to be a leading force in addressing these issues.

Imperatives for Change

Access to Medicines

At least one-third of the world's population does not have regular access to medicines. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that nearly 30,000 children die every day from diseases that could easily be treated if they had access to a basic range of essential medicines.[1] It has been estimated that morbidity and mortality related to tuberculosis could be cut in half through optimal access to and use of medicines. Sometimes needed medicines are not developed for the treatment of diseases that affect a small number of people or that are concentrated in low-income countries.

Quality of Medicines

Although the public can have confidence in the quality of medicines from reputable suppliers, regrettably, medicines that are of inferior quality or counterfeit do enter the marketplace. For example, the United Nations reported that less than one third of the oral contraceptives used internationally are of the quality that is required in industrialized countries. [1] WHO reported that one-third of antimalarial medicines tested in six African countries failed to meet international quality standards.[2]

¹ The 127 member associations of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, representing the 2,000,000 pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists of the world, believe that access to safe and effective medicines is a fundamental human right.



Responsible Use of Medicines

According to WHO, even when medicines are available and of assured quality, they are not always used appropriately; in many countries up to half of all prescriptions are either unnecessary or incorrect, and in about half of cases patients do not take their medicines as prescribed. [1] Impartial evidence on the responsible use of medicines is not always available to health professionals, patients, and caregivers. A large body of evidence documents the ability of pharmacists to help patients make responsible use of medicines. For example, a 2010 analysis of 298 research reports found that pharmacist involvement in direct patient care resulted in improved therapeutic outcomes, safety outcomes, patient adherence, patient knowledge, and quality of life. [3]

Pharmacy Capacity and Collaboration

Worldwide variability in how pharmaceutical scientists, pharmacists, and ancillary personnel are educated and trained reduces the capacity of pharmacy to meet population and patient needs. Shortages of pharmacists, pharmacy educators, and pharmaceutical scientists exist in some countries. Many of the challenges to the development, distribution, and responsible use of medicines can be met only through effective multidisciplinary collaborations and stakeholder partnerships, more of which are needed.

References

- [1] World Health Organization. *Continuity and change: implementing the third WHO medicines strategy 2008-2013*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2009 [cited 9 February 2012]. Available from: http://apps.who.int/medicinedocs/pdf/s16821e/s16821e_lo.pdf
- [2] World Health Organization. *Survey of the quality of selected antimalarial medicines circulating in six countries of sub-Saharan Africa*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011 [cited 9 February 2012]. Available from: http://www.who.int/medicines/publications/WHO_QAMSA_report.pdf
- [3] Chisholm-Burns MA, Lee J, Spivey CA et al. *US pharmacists' effect as team members on patient care: systematic review and meta-analyses*. *Med Care*. 2010;48:923-33

Fédération
Internationale
Pharmaceutique

International
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Commitments of the World's Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Scientists

In consideration of the above imperatives for change, we make the following commitments:

Partnerships

To lead or contribute to expanded and more effective collaborative efforts designed to improve global health and patient health outcomes by closing gaps in the development, distribution, and responsible use of medicines.

Access to Medicines

To work with all sectors of society to foster development and worldwide access to medicines.

To work with regulatory authorities to ensure the safe and effective distribution of medicines.

Quality of Medicines

To enhance standards for the development, production, and distribution of medicines, and to foster compliance with those standards.

To fight for the elimination of substandard and counterfeit medicines.



Responsible Use of Medicines

To enhance standards for good pharmacy practice, and to foster compliance with those standards.

To encourage pharmacists to improve treatments by active participation in patient care and by educating and advising patients, caregivers, and health professionals on the responsible use of medicines and medicine-related devices.

To encourage pharmacists to inform patients, caregivers, and health professionals on both the benefits and risks associated with the use of any medicine.

To encourage pharmacists to expand their role in helping patients adhere to their medication regimens.

To support adverse-event and medication-error reporting programs in the interest of promoting the safer use of medicines.

To expand public awareness that more positive health outcomes and important cost savings result when patients, physicians, and pharmacists collaborate in selecting, monitoring, and adjusting medication therapy.

Knowledge

To help ensure that pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists achieve and maintain contemporary knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values throughout their careers.

To foster research in the pharmaceutical sciences and in pharmacy practice, seeking to enhance the development of needed medicines and the provision of pharmacist services.

To encourage the dissemination of impartial evidence-based information concerning the responsible use of medicines.

Ethics

To encourage pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists to adhere to the highest standards of professional conduct, always giving top priority to serving the best interests of patients and society at large.

To support the confidentiality of patient information through diligent application of privacy standards.

Innovation

To foster innovation in the following areas: (1) the education of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists; (2) the discovery and development of new medicines; and (3) the delivery of pharmacist services that promote responsible use of medicines.

Societal Support

To encourage society at large to support our commitments through the policies and programs of governments, public health bodies, academic institutions, philanthropic organizations, and others.

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To expand public awareness that societal support is vital in the following areas: (1) advancement of the pharmaceutical sciences and of pharmacy practice; (2) educational systems for the health sciences, the pharmaceutical sciences, and pharmacy practice; (3) public policies that encourage the discovery, development, and availability of innovative medicines; and (4) public policies that ensure safe and sustainable systems for distribution, control, and responsible use of medicines.

With our signatures, we proclaim the support of our associations for the commitments expressed in this Declaration, which will improve global health through the development and distribution of medicines and through the provision of services that support responsible use of medicines.

Signed 4 October 2012:

Michel Buchmann
President
International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

Name representative
Function
Member Organisation

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