Since the launch of the Global Network of Pharmacists Against Tobacco in Helsinki in August 2003, FIP has been involved in many new Tobacco Cessation initiatives.

During the FIP Congress 2003 in Sydney, FIP adopted a Statement of Policy on the Role of the Pharmacist in Promoting a Tobacco Free Future. The statement includes recommendations both for pharmaceutical organisations and for individual pharmacists to help people who wish to give up smoking or other uses of tobacco, and to encourage others to do so.

As a step towards the implementation of the Statement, the FIP Council agreed to make a combined effort of all FIP Member Organisations to mobilise pharmacists around Tobacco Cessation. This issue was tackled through a global campaign for pharmacists, launched on the World No Tobacco Day on 31 May 2004. FIP produced campaign materials including:

- A letter from the FIP president
- The above-mentioned FIP Statement
- Draft press release on the role of the pharmacist in tobacco cessation
- Examples of FIP activities
- New Orleans meeting announcement
- Examples of tobacco control activities of FIP member organisations based on the survey conducted by FIP in December 2003
- WHO Code of Practice on Tobacco Control for Health Professional Organisations
- Suggested letter to Minister of Health regarding FCTC signature
- WHO FCTC booklet and
- Updated status of the WHO FCTC

When asking the member organisations to report on their activities on the World No Tobacco Day, FIP received 15 responses. A report of the activities is available on request (pharmacistsagainsttobacco@fip.org).

WHO is currently communicating with health professional organisations and exploring potential ways to collaborate in relation to the signature, ratification and implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). FIP, through its Global Network, will be actively participating in these discussions. 168 countries signed the FCTC and, to date, 31 countries have ratified it. The Convention will enter into force on the 90th day following the date of deposit of the 40th ratification.

In January 28-30, 2004, WHO organised a meeting for health professional organisations and tobacco control. During the meeting, Satu Siiskonen gave a presentation on the Global Network of Pharmacists Against Tobacco and pharmacists' initiatives on tobacco cessation. The meeting participants drafted and adopted a Code of Practice on Tobacco Control for Health Professional Organisations (enclosed). FIP, as well as several other health professional organisations, have officially adopted this Code of Practice and will promote it to their respective member organisations. The Code is available online at: http://www.who.int/tobacco/events/30jan_2004/en/

A meeting of the FIP Global Network of Pharmacists Against Tobacco was held during the 64th FIP Congress in New Orleans, LA, USA, on Tuesday, 7 September 2004 and attended by more than 70 pharmacists from 20 countries. The programme (enclosed) was planned together with the network members and included nine presentations from different countries and regions. The meeting discussed national and local initiatives of pharmacists to offer tobacco cessation services, as well as pharmacists' education and training on this topic. The presentations given at this meeting clearly showed that pharmacists are actively involved in tobacco cessation in several countries, and committed to work together with other health professionals and the World Health Organization to implement the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The presentations will soon be available at www.pharmacistsagainsttobacco.org

The next day, on 8 September 2004, FIP issued a Press Release entitled “FIP Calls for Ban on Tobacco Sales and Smoking in Pharmacies”. A press conference on Tobacco Free Pharmacies was held in the presence of Dr John Gans, Chief Executive Officer of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and Mr John Ware, President of the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum. The panel supported the ban and pointed out that pharmacists are health professionals committed to improving the health of their customers. The elimination of tobacco products from pharmacies is an achievable tobacco control strategy that will benefit the public health.
To date, 322 people have subscribed to the Pharmacists Against Tobacco Email List and messages have been posted by pharmacists on various topics, including pharmacy guidelines on smoking cessation, training materials, events, use of NRT, sale of tobacco from pharmacies, local campaigns and the FCTC. The subscribers include, among others, pharmacists, other health professionals, health journalists, researchers, students and WHO employees.

Part of the information received through the list is added on the website of the Global Network for future reference. Therefore, the Link Collection on the website already includes useful information about local community based smoking cessation projects, treatment guidelines, tools and statements from different countries. The presentations given during the Special Session at the 12th World Conference on Tobacco or Health have also been uploaded to the website.

Please subscribe to the Email List of the Global Network to receive further information about future activities.

The website is available at: [www.pharmacistsagainsttobacco.org](http://www.pharmacistsagainsttobacco.org)
New code of practice adopted during WHO informal meeting of health professionals

On 28-30 January 2004 the "WHO informal meeting of health professional organizations and tobacco control" took place in Geneva, Switzerland. Health Professionals agreed to promote the following new code of practice among themselves and their organizations.

Code of practice on tobacco control for health professional organizations

Preamble: In order to contribute actively to the reduction of tobacco consumption and include tobacco control in the public health agenda at national, regional and global levels, it is hereby agreed that health professional organizations will:

1. Encourage and support their members to be role models by not using tobacco and by promoting a tobacco-free culture.
2. Assess and address the tobacco consumption patterns and tobacco-control attitudes of their members through surveys and the introduction of appropriate policies.
3. Make their own organizations’ premises and events tobacco-free and encourage their members to do the same.
4. Include tobacco control in the agenda of all relevant health-related congresses and conferences.
5. Advise their members to routinely ask patients and clients about tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke –using evidence-based approaches and best practices–, give advice on how to quit smoking and ensure appropriate follow-up of their cessation goals.
6. Influence health institutions and educational centres to include tobacco control in their health professionals' curricula, through continued education and other training programmes.
7. Actively participate in World No Tobacco Day every 31 May.
8. Refrain from accepting any kind of tobacco industry support –financial or otherwise–, and from investing in the tobacco industry, and encourage their members to do the same.
9. Ensure that their organization has a stated policy on any commercial or other kind of relationship with partners who interact with or have interests in the tobacco industry through a declaration of interest.
10. Prohibit the sale or promotion of tobacco products on their premises, and encourage their members to do the same.
11. Actively support governments in the process leading to signature, ratification and implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
12. Dedicate financial and/or other resources to tobacco control –including dedicating resources to the implementation of this code of practice.
13. Participate in the tobacco-control activities of health professional networks.

Adopted and signed by the participants of the WHO Informal Meeting on Health Professionals and Tobacco Control; 28-30 January 2004; Geneva, Switzerland
Meeting of the Global Network of Pharmacists Against Tobacco

Pharmacists Against Tobacco: Examples of national and local activities

**Date, time:** Tuesday, 7 September 2004, 9h00–12h30

**Venue:** Hyatt Regency, Room: Regency Ball B/C, 3rd floor, New Orleans, LA, USA

**Organizer:** International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

**Programme**

Moderator: John Ware, President, Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum

- **Pharmacy smoking cessation services - contributing to public health**
  Sue Sharpe, Chief Executive, Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC), UK

- **The use of integrated marketing and professional intervention strategies in a smoking cessation project in Australia**
  Patrick Reid, Pharmacy Guild of Australia

- **The pharmacy as an active part of the public health system offer on smoking cessation in Denmark**
  Helle Jacobsgaard, Pharmacist, Danish Pharmaceutical Association

- **Nationwide dissemination of the Rx for Change: Clinician-Assisted Tobacco Cessation training programme**
  Karen S. Hudmon, Dr.P.H., M.S., R.Ph., Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health

- **Pharmacists for promoting a future free of tobacco in India**
  Maddirala V. Siva Prasada Reddy, South East Asian Pharmaceutical Forum, India

- **French campaign against tobacco**
  Josette Dubray, French National Council of Pharmacists, France

- **What’s working in smoking cessation in the pharmacy profession in the USA - Eliminating tobacco from healthcare facilities**
  Fred S. Mayer, R.Ph., M.P.H., President, Pharmacists Planning Service, Inc. and Pharmacy Council on Tobacco Dependence, USA

- **Smoking Cessation Campaign in Japan**
  Nobuo Yamamoto, Executive Officer, Japan Pharmaceutical Association & Vice President, Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum

- **Pharmacists’ smoking cessation initiatives in the Western Pacific Region**
  John Ware, President, Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum, Australia

**Discussion**

**Further information:** Ms Satu Siiskonen, FIP Manager of Professional Affairs, International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), E-mail: satu@fip.org

www.pharmacistsagainsttobacco.org