77th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Seoul, Republic of Korea
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First Announcement

Medicines and beyond!
The soul of pharmacy

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The 2017 FIP congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea, invites pharmacy practitioners and pharmaceutical scientists from around the world to come together to consider ways of extending the role of pharmacists so that they are seen as much more than simply medicines providers.

All over the world, the pharmacy profession is facing new challenges and changes. Pharmaceutical science and industry are focused on new, precise therapies, individualised approaches and innovation using novel technology and engineering. Smart pharmacy in community and hospital settings offers patient-centred services, while promoting responsible use of medicines, patient safety and quality of life. Patients are seeking professional help and advice; they are including pharmacists in their decisions and expecting much more than just medicines.

The soul of pharmacy has to be nurtured and preserved, based on tradition, education, innovation and dedication. Education in pharmacy therefore has to address not only knowledge and skills but also attitudes and values in order to motivate pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists to maintain quality and professionalism.

The professional symposia at this congress will demonstrate new ways of adding value in the pharmacy profession, of providing more than medicines, and of caring for patients' needs.

Join us on this fantastic journey and enjoy the best practice!
Welcome to Seoul

Seoul is a product of its contradictions. It’s an ancient city, with a legacy of having served as its nation’s capital for over 600 years, yet it combines a reverence for the past with a full embrace of the future.

International visitors arrive in Seoul via Incheon Airport, which is well connected to the city by road, rail and subway. Seoul’s transportation system is considered one of the best in the world so getting about will be easy and quick.

Seoul is a leading centre for information technology and electronics. Think global brands like Samsung, LG and Hyundai. And many international companies and banks have headquarters here.

The city is a shoppers’ paradise, with a number of modern malls and markets including Myeong-dong. The Yongsan Electronics Market is the largest in Asia. And if you want to experience ‘Gangnam style’, head to the Gangnam district, one of the most fashionable and affluent areas of the city.

Friendly Koreans will welcome you with open arms and make you feel right at home. With over 400 three to five star hotels, congress delegates will easily find one to suit them. And don’t leave without trying authentic kimchi, Korea’s national dish of pickled and spiced cabbage, and Bulgogi, barbequed beef.

It is home to the captivating UNESCO World Heritage-listed palaces and shrines: Changdeokgung Palace, Hwaseong Fortress, Jongmyo Shrine and the Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty, and Namhansanseong Walled Fortress. Visiting Insa-dong and Bukchon provides the rich experiences of traditional culture. And enjoy Korean Wave, ‘Han-Ryu’, which is a popular Korean culture of music, dance, and movies, near Coex.

Other attractions include museums, religious monuments, national parks, and the leisure activities on the Sevit floating islands in the city’s Han river.

The KPA and PSK invite you to Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea and its largest city. Pharmacists from South Korea look forward to receiving their colleagues from around the world at the FIP congress!
As in other countries, pharmacists in Korea work in a variety of practice settings, including community, hospital, industry, government and academia. Latest statistics show that there were just over 32,000 practising pharmacists and 21,666 community pharmacies serving the country’s population of some 50 million people.

Community pharmacies are often located near hospitals because these are not allowed to dispense prescription medicines. Healthcare is modern and efficient, with Western and traditional Eastern medicines available under the country’s national health insurance scheme. Total healthcare expenditure represents around 7.7% of GDP. Pharmacists who work in hospital practice often specialise in particular disciplines such as oncology and psychiatry. They work closely with other members of the healthcare professional team.

Korean pharmacists can also be found in various discovery, development, manufacturing and marketing roles in the pharmaceutical industry. And they work, too, in pharmaceutical affairs and policy units within the government, and in university research centres.

To become a pharmacist in the Republic of Korea, students must undergo a six-year programme of education. The first two years prepares them to take the Pharmacy Education Eligibility Test, which examines subjects like biology and chemistry. If they are successful, students move on to a four-year programme based on an experiential core curriculum. This includes a residency element to provide professional experiences and a period working closely with a faculty adviser in a specified area such as clinical pharmacy or pharmacy research. Students must also have taken an English test.

Your hosts
The KPA – the Korean Pharmaceutical Association – is the professional organisation for pharmacists. Established in February 1927, its vision and mission is to strengthen the profession in areas of practice and science, to advocate the role of the pharmacist, to ensure professional and ethical responsibility and to contribute to public health.

The PSK – the Pharmaceutical Society of Korea – is the professional organisation for pharmaceutical scientists. It was established in 1946. Yakhak Hoeji (Korean Journal) was started in 1948. It launched the Archives of Pharmacal Research (APR) in 1978, which is now a leading English pharmaceutical journal (2014 IF 2.046) published by Springer in Korea.