Dear MEPS Members,

Happy New Year to you all. For those of you who celebrate Christmas, I hope you all had a very merry one, and for those that have a break over this period, I hope you had a safe and happy one.

I also hope that you are ready for another fantastic year, and are ready and willing to assist in making it a great year for MEPS. Although the program for Abu Dhabi has already been finalised, the programme committee is actively searching for speakers for both Seville (2020) and Brisbane (2021); if you believe you have a topic that is relevant to both MEPS and FIP as a whole, please send your presentation details to the relevant person/s as soon as possible (see below for contact details).

On a personal note, I wish to let you know that I retired from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) at the end of January and have transferred to the Reserve Force, so I still have a tie to the military, on a part-time basis rather than full time. Since retiring from the CAF, I have assumed the newly created role of Director Plasma Protein Products (PPP) Formulary at Canadian Blood Services. There, I will bring my expertise as a pharmacist to work on developing a Formulary program to manage the PPP $700 M annual portfolio. I will also be able to bring information from this new role to FIP-MEPS as many of us are interested in this product for emergency situations. My new employer has agreed to support me with FIP and will guarantee my participation to the FIP congress, BPP meeting and ICMM congress, which soon will be a responsibility of the MEPS President. I will continue in my role as MEPS President until 2020, when we will hold elections for president again.

I promise to represent and support MEPS in all activities.
What a grand affair this was! The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow was founded in 1599 to regulate and improve the standards of medicine, surgery and pharmacy in Glasgow and the West of Scotland. Today, the College has over 13 000 members internationally, and continues its mission to improve patient care around the world through education, training, and examination. The College’s heritage collections, include thousands of medical and surgical instruments, rare books, archives, and pictures, from over 6 centuries. From the outside, the College looks like any other building in Glasgow - old. That theme continues on the inside, but in a most splendid way. More>
MEPS Visit Day, 6 Sep 18

We had been given strict instructions by Ellie that the bus taking us to Edinburgh would leave the SEC Glasgow at 7:30am sharp! With that in mind, all but one made the cut-off and the bus did indeed leave at 7:30am. The reason for leaving at 7:30am was to leave plenty of time to get to Edinburgh on time and leave plenty of time for traffic contingencies. We were scheduled to arrive in Edinburgh at 9:30am and as is usual when you plan for something, it never eventuates, and we arrived just after 9am, so the drive took us for a wee tour of Edinburgh itself including the Royal Mile. More>

Letter from Chairman of the Technical Commission of Pharmacy of the ICMM

The letter from the Chairman of the Technical Commission for Pharmacy of the International Committee of Military Medicine was received by MEPS as an information letter and an invitation to all MEPS members to attend the 43rd ICMM World Congress which will take place in Basel, Switzerland in May this year. More>

Temperature Exposure Project

It has been noted that extremes of temperatures are becoming more common, therefore the risk of medicines being exposed to these temperatures (either higher or lower than those tested) during storage and transportation is also increasing. It is thought that these extreme temperatures are likely to adversely affect the quality of a medicine, however no data is easily available to guide whether the medicines are safe to use.

A special project is underway to develop a guidance document for MEPS members on managing medicines that have encountered these extremes of temperature above or below the specified
We are requesting any information you have on this topic, including but not limited to articles, anecdotes and results of local tests or company recommendations. Any documents we produce will be guidelines only, with no liability associated with their use. If you would like to become involved in this project or have any information, please email melanie.morrow@nt.gov.au.

 Requests

Webinars
If you have any ideas, or would like to volunteer to give a webinar presentation, please contact MEPS webinar facilitator: Steve Shaddock on: steveshaddock53@gmail.com or steveshaddock@fip.org

FIP members can review all FIP past webinars on the FIP library at the following website: https://www.fip.org/webinar

Speakers Required for FIP Congresses
In order to continue to provide relevant, topical and informative sessions, The MEPS Programme Committee is requesting nominations for speakers for future FIP Congresses in Seville, Spain (2020), Brisbane, Australia (2021), and all future Congresses.

If you would like to make a presentation at a future Congress, please submit your ideas to one, or both, of the MEPS Programme Committee:
- Nita Sood - sood415@gmail.com or
- Steve Shaddock - steveshaddock53@gmail.com

Giving a presentation will provide you with an opportunity to showcase the great work you are doing in the military or emergency pharmacy in your own country or abroad.

Newsletter Contribution Request
Anyone who has a contribution for the newsletter - be it information about their role, items of interest, or requests for information from members of MEPS - please submit your contribution to MEPS communications officer on wendywalker@fip.org

Tupaia
On 23 Jan 19 MEPS hosted a webinar on Tupaia Project - a multi-country health systems mapping project for strengthening health supply chains. The information presented was very interesting, so much so the MEPS CommsO felt it worthy of inclusion in the newsletter for wider dissemination.

Tupaia is a data aggregation, analysis and visualisation platform that maps health systems in low and middle-income countries. The project combines data from multiple sources (including District Health Information System (DHIS2), mSupply and our own MediTrak app) to help improve health supply chains, map disease outbreaks, undertake disaster response and strengthen service provision. Tupaia also gives donors a bird’s eye view of performance metrics across nearly 800 facilities in Asia-Pacific and helps patients to locate appropriate care more quickly and safely.

Tupaia is available completely free and open source and can be deployed in any low-resource context. More>

National World Pharmacists Day 2018

Celebrations in Malaysia

By: Brigadier General Dato’ Dr A Halim Basari, Lieutenant Nurhazirah Zulkefli and Lieutenant Nurul Amirah Daud.

The Malaysian private healthcare system does not recognise pharmacists who are fighting for the dispensing separation (DS). Currently, General Practitioners in Malaysia have the right to prescribe and dispense medicines at their clinics. This practice confines pharmacists from
providing pharmaceutical care and safeguarding medication safety. World Pharmacist Day (WPD) serves as a platform for pharmacists to educate the public on their extensive roles as medicines experts in perfecting the healthcare system. International support helps to promote this initiative so that one day Malaysia will adopt DS policy and recognises the full extent of the pharmacists’ potential. Only with the power of well-informed Malaysians, a paradigm shift for the profession can be realised.

Echoing the 2017 World Pharmacist Day (WPD) celebratory success, the Malaysian pharmacists once again organized another outstanding and memorable National WPD event in 2018. This event marked a historic turning point in Malaysia as pharmacists from all sectors came together as a unified entity to commemorate and showcase their contributions to the nation. The national celebration was held at the recently launched MyTown Shopping Centre, Kuala Lumpur on the 20th to 21st October 2018. The leading organizers were the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF), Ministry of Health (MOH) Malaysia, Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society (MPS), Malaysian Community Pharmacy Guild (MCPG), Malaysian Organisation of Pharmaceutical Industries (MOPI) and Pharmaceutical Association of Malaysia (PhAMA). Prior to this national event, all 14 state pharmacist groups organized their own local level WPD celebrations. Concurrently the public, private and university hospitals also organized their own WPD separately. This is evident that WPD has become a huge yearly celebrated affair that unites all Malaysian pharmacists. More>

**About - Military and Emergency Pharmacy Section -**

Our objective is to establish close collaboration and co-operation between pharmacists who work in the military and with the NGOs that respond in times of emergency, whether the emergency is as a result of a natural disaster or man-made. More>