



## Health and Medicines Information Section Annual Report 2022

Twenty twenty two was a transitional year with all of us learning how to live into the “new normal”. This provided for a lot of the activities were done in a hybrid way, still presenting challenges for the effective engagement with both members and officers. The decision not to have section events in the congress, while understandable was regrettable and limited somewhat the opportunity to engage in a meaningful dialog on priorities and recruit volunteers to support the ongoing projects and activities. As individuals and as a community we are looking towards 2023 with a hope that we will be able to meet and work face to face which remains very important for our work as volunteers.

### **Engagement activities**

During the Congress in Seville, the section hosted a happy hour with an opportunity for the FIP members to meet talk about the ongoing work of the section. This was the only live event so many members took the opportunity to come and chat with the ExCO. For the remainder of the year with only couple of virtual touch points with the members and colleagues our ExCO members emphasised the participation in local events virtually or where possible live to represent the section as well as FIP. Those included: 1.) Presentation on behalf of the Section and FIP at a meeting for the GuangDong Pharmaceutical Association (GDPA), China covering the FIP DGs and coming in on the FIP stewardship and tool kits in the field of patient safety; 2.) Presentation at a meeting of the Egyptian pharmacists focussing on the regional cooperation, focussing on the activities and opportunities to engage with our Section

### **HaMIS @ FIP Digital Events**

Members of the Section continued to contribute and ensure the delivery various high quality digital events part of the FIP Agenda for 2022.

### **The HaMIS Stipend**

Seventy one applications (compared to 60 in 2020) were received from 27 countries (compared to 23 in 2020): Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Montenegro, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The 2022 recipient of the Health and Medicines Information Stipend to attend the FIP Congress in Seville is Marlita Putri Ekasari from Indonesia. Marlita is a junior researcher and PhD student who is studying medicines labelling. She presented a poster at the Congress on "the Appropriateness of Secondary Medicine Packaging for People with Visual Impairment"; a subject of particular relevance to the section.

### **Info-Link**

This past summer we also marked the special 100th issue of our newsletter, marking 25 years of continuous section publication! The special issue contained contributions from the past leaders of the section, while it was designed to look into the novel areas of interest in health and medicines information, outlining major trends for the profession.

### **Working Groups**

The Section has focussed its activities in three streams, led by a dedicated working groups:

- *Health Literacy – led by Dr. Amy Kruger Howard and Dr. Vivien Tong*

This group is in collaboration with the FIP Foundation (Pictograms Project), MEPS and FIP HQ. The goal of this project is to coordinate and align all FIP efforts in the field of health literacy, by developing a strategic vision and an implementation plan, building evidence for the contribution and the important role of the pharmacists in improving health literacy. As a first deliverable the stakeholders have agreed on the need to develop a strategic plan and an implementation framework outlining section specific topics and outlines of projects that will facilitate a coordinated approach to the FIP curriculum and in general to the upskilling of pharmacists enabling them to act as agents for improving the health literacy in the general public.

- *Digital Health – led by Mr. Ardi Mirzaei and Prof. Parisa Aslani*

The group works in coordination with the FIP Digital Forum and will likely flow into the newly established Technology Advice Committee.

- *Medication and driving: two decades later; this project has been initiated with the idea to measure the impact of the FIP policy paper on medicines and driving which was spearheaded by our section under the leadership of Han de Gier in collaboration with the University of Groningen. The project conducted a survey, focussed on the European region of FIP members to evaluate the impact of the policy paper and the way it was transposed into the national regulations in the member countries. The report was presented in August at an international conference in Rotterdam and currently the team has a manuscript in development*

### **Section led BPP special project:**

- *Improving written discharge medication information for culturally and linguistically diverse communities – led by Dr Vivien Tong and Prof. Parisa Aslani.*

The activities of this HaMIS Working Group centred on improving written discharge medication information for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities have comprised a stepwise approach. The first step involved the initial development of written discharge medication information (WDMI) templates in English, Vietnamese, and Traditional and Simplified Chinese, followed by pilot user testing with bilingual people. The WDMI templates were then revised based on the user testing findings, in preparation for the next research stage. Given the evolving COVID-19 circumstances over the past 2 years, this has limited the ability to conduct further face-to-face, iterative user testing of the developed WDMI template(s) with people. Subsequently, pharmacists' perspectives on the revised WDMI templates (English versions) are being explored via an ongoing series of in-depth interviews via telephone/video-conferencing. These pharmacist interviews aim to gain an understanding of the WDMI currently being provided in Australian hospitals, barriers and facilitators to existing WDMI formats relevant for CALD communities and opportunities to improve WDMI. Data from the interviews conducted to date have been analysed and the WDMI template(s) has been subsequently refined based on the pharmacist feedback received thus far. Further refinement of the template(s) may be needed once data saturation has been reached for the interviews, in preparation for when face-to-face user testing of the WDMI templates will resume.

### **Involvement with FIP Activities**

Members of FIP have been involved with various FIP initiatives:

- FIP Working Group on Policy Statements
- FIP Patient Safety Reference Document
- FIP Patient Safety Policy Statement
- Feedback on WHO Documents
- Delivering webinar on HaMIS (with YPG)
- FIP Technology Forum
- Policy Committee on FIP's Role in Medicine Shortages

Goals in 2023:

- Goal #1: Focus on high impact activities in the field of health literacy
- Goal #2: Finalize the work on the "written discharge information" BPP special project
- Goal #3: Continue to provide support for impactful congress program in the field of health and medicines information and in addition provide for access from colleagues from developing countries to attend the FIP Congress via the Section stipend.