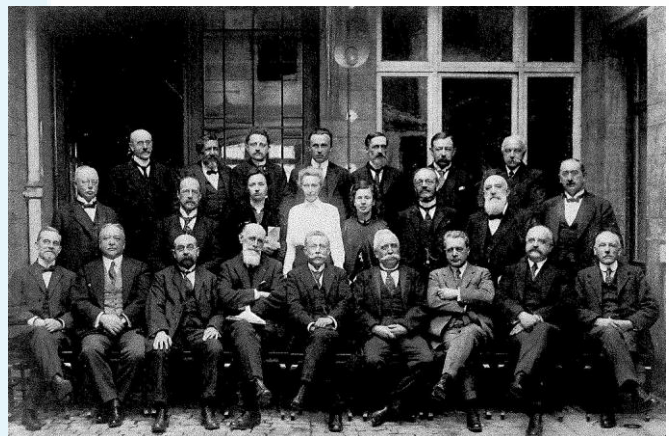


Introduction to FIP and its history

Foundation

Before FIP was established, contact between pharmacists from different countries only occurred at pharmaceutical congresses, which were held infrequently. The first of these congresses convened in 1865 on the initiative of the German Pharmaceutical Association. Over 45 years, just 10 congresses were held, the tenth being in Brussels, Belgium, in 1910. At that congress, the formation of an international federation was proposed by the Dutch Society of Pharmacy. The resolution to form FIP was as follows: “*The 10th International Congress of Pharmacy resolves to establish an International Pharmaceutical Federation with the object of protecting pharmacy by international means, both as a profession and as an applied exact science.*” The congress also agreed to set up an international provisional committee to draw up the statutes of this federation. At that time, the normal diplomatic language (and therefore the common language between nations) was French and so the original name was *Fédération Internationale Pharmaceutique*: FIP. This remains the official name of the organisation although the English translation, International Pharmaceutical Federation, is now most used.

The provisional committee met in 1911 in The Hague to carry out its task of preparing the statutes and on 25 September 1912, FIP was formally constituted under Dutch law. The meeting was addressed by the Home Secretary of the Netherlands, Mr TL Heemskerk; Dr L van Itallie and Mr Hofman were elected President and General Secretary, respectively. The Government of the Netherlands gave a grant to the new federation to cover initial expenses.



Third assembly of FIP (29 April, 1922)

Twenty national pharmaceutical associations were founding members of FIP, those of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, Poland (at that time included in the entry for Russia), Romania, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. FIP was governed by a central committee, later renamed the Council, which is composed of delegates of national association members (FIP member organisations).

First focus

An important task of FIP was to develop pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical sciences at international level, through several means, including sharing information on various topics (such as pharmacy practice, regulatory framework and education) and developing common positions and standards around pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical sciences. In its first 50 years, FIP established committees to study specific issues, including those related to:

- Quality of medicines:
 - o International codex for medicines testing; a secretariat for an international pharmacopoeia (work that has been continued by the WHO through its International Pharmacopoeia)
 - o Unifying methods of testing (which led to the adoption by the European Pharmacopoeia of FIP methods for its pharmaceutical enzyme monographs)
 - o Compounding medicines, including through an international formulary for compound medicines
 - o Regulation of medicines produced by the pharmaceutical industry
 - o Control of medicines
 - o International formulary for compounding
- Dispensing standards:
 - o Sales of poisons and narcotics
 - o Distribution of veterinary medicines
 - o Preparation and sales of serums and vaccines
 - o Provision of medicines to small villages
 - o Provision of medicines on ships
- International nomenclature for medicines (work that has been continued by the WHO through international non-proprietary names)

- Organisation of pharmacy:
 - o The requirements of pharmacy premises and pharmacy practice
 - o Limitation and distribution of pharmacies
 - o Working hours of pharmacy
 - o Responsibilities of pharmacist
- International trade of medicines
- Relationship with health insurers
- Advertising medicines

Committees were also organised to gather:

- Directors of medicines control laboratories
- Secretaries of the national pharmacopoeia commissions (Formed in 1966 to assist in the publication of an international pharmacopoeia, the group applied pressure on the WHO to publish this essential standard work and played a significant role in its content and arrangement.)
- Historians of pharmacy

FIP sections

As early as 1925, it was clear that there was a need to offer platforms on which pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists undertaking similar types of activity could exchange information.

That year a Scientific Committee was set up, which was reorganised into a Scientific Section in 1947 and which then became the **Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences** in 1970. In 1931, a committee was set up for hospital pharmacists and the **Hospital Pharmacy Section** was founded in 1957.

As with other sections, **military pharmacists** began to meet (starting in 1957) and became a separate section in 1963.

One of the first actions taken by the new Bureau of FIP in 1912 was to set up an international pharmaceutical press office. The editors of the pharmaceutical periodicals met independently, beginning in 1950, and formed their own section in 1953. Since then membership of the section has gradually been extended to include all FIP members

concerned in any way with pharmacy and drug related information. This is reflected in its current title of “**Health and Medicines Information Section**”.

A Committee for Industrial Pharmacists was formed in 1930 and it was in London in 1955 that the section was officially founded. The purpose of this section was to provide the means for **industrial pharmacists** to exchange information and ideas on technical and professional questions concerning the pharmaceutical industry.

FIP’s largest section today is the **Community Pharmacy Section**. Surprisingly, this section was not one of the original sections. A Commission for the General Practice of Pharmacy was set up in 1956 and, in 1962, a sub-Commission for the Techniques of General Practice Pharmacy was set up. The section itself was not formally established until 1970.

The need for a section for **clinical biology** was first discussed in 1966 during the FIP Congress in Madrid and the section was formally founded in 1973.

Another later section was the **Academic Pharmacy Section**. In 1968, it was proposed that an academic section was formed for pharmacists engaged in academic activities, and this section was established in 1972.

The youngest section of FIP is the **Social and Administrative Pharmacy Section**. This was created in 1993 at the FIP congress in Tokyo.

Congresses and conferences

One year after its establishment, FIP held its first scientific congress in The Hague, the eleventh International Pharmaceutical Congress. The outbreak of war in 1914 interrupted FIP activities and it was not until eight years later, in 1922, that the third General Assembly reconvened in Brussels. After 1922, congresses were held regularly, with a twelfth international congress being held, partly under FIP auspices, in Brussels in 1935. Thereafter, the General Assembly met regularly in various European cities until war broke out again in 1939, causing another seven-year suspension in activities.

Until 1984, FIP congresses occurred on the European continent with only one of the federation's congresses having left the shores of Europe (Washington DC, USA, in 1971).

Then, in 1985, the FIP congress was held in Montreal, Canada, and in 1988, the annual congress was held in Australia, becoming the first congress south of the equator and opening the door to future events in distant destinations.



FIP congress, Montreal, Canada (1985)

Moving the annual congress from continent to continent became an expression of FIP's real need to become a truly international federation.

As years passed, FIP's world congress achieved record participation in number of attendants and diversity of countries, developing

into a key meeting point of specialists, researchers and practitioners.

Throughout this period, several specialist symposia on contemporary topics were organised, providing a platform for discussion for all groups of pharmacy professionals. For the first time, in 1998, a world congress on pharmacy education took place in New Orleans, USA.

The millennium year witnessed the creation of a four-year cycle of a Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress, stressing the leadership role in global pharmaceutical sciences, which had been achieved by the FIP Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Headquarters

For the first 50 years of the federation, the FIP headquarters were at the home of its general secretary. It was Dr JHM Winters, FIP President from 1966-78, who persuaded the Royal Dutch Association for the Advancement of Pharmacy (KMNP) to lease FIP a number of rooms at their headquarters in The Hague. After almost 30 years, the expansion of both organisations demanded more space and FIP had to look for alternative offices. Following a Bureau recommendation, a suitable property was purchased in 1991.

Since that date the headquarters of FIP have been at Andries Bickerweg 5, 2517JP Den Haag, the Netherlands.

Alliances

World Health Organization (WHO)

FIP was accepted as a non-governmental organisation in official relations with the WHO shortly after the creation of the WHO in 1948. By the end of the 80s awareness of healthcare rose as an issue of global relevance rather than a local or national concern. To involve pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists as major players in this arena, FIP strengthened ties with the WHO, giving pharmacists a more visible role within this organisation.

In 1987, FIP representatives were appointed to serve as liaison officers with the WHO Regional Offices. The work evolved through active collaboration on the “Essential drugs programme” and in several consultations on the role of the pharmacist in healthcare. In 1993, the FIP Council approved the Tokyo Declaration, which called on all national associations, together with the governments of the countries concerned to begin the process of ensuring the implementation of good pharmacy practice guidelines. A joint document the “FIP/WHO guidelines for good pharmaceutical practice” was adopted in 1994, followed by a revised version in 2011: the *“Joint FIP/WHO guidelines on good pharmacy practice: standards for quality of pharmacy services”*.

In 1994, “The role of the pharmacist in support of the WHO revised drug strategy” resolution was accepted during the World Health Assembly. Three years later a joint FIP/WHO declaration on “The role of the pharmacist in the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic” was signed and, in 2011, a joint “FIP/WHO joint statement on the role of pharmacists in tuberculosis care and control” was signed.

In recent years, activities between FIP and the WHO have increased: FIP has acted as a consultant in the revision of several documents, intervening in various working groups and projects while promoting, at the same time, WHO activities through the supply of regular information to members and encouraging national pharmacy organisations to raise awareness in priority areas.

World Health Professions Alliance

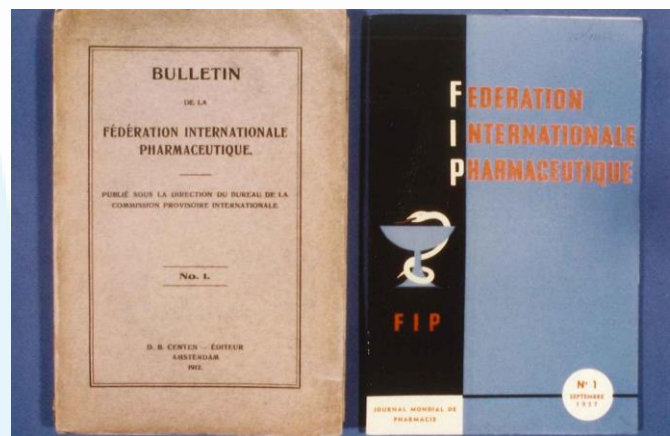
Although FIP had established strong links with the World Medical Association (WMA) during the late 80s, only in 1997 was a joint “Medicines with respect” contact group formed to discuss matters of interest to both professions at an international level.

Two years later, working relations were also developed with the International Council of Nurses (ICN), leading to the development of specific action plans for WHO activities. This fruitful partnership resulted in the formation of the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) in 2000. Through constructive teamwork and building synergy in common goals, the health professions have been advancing cooperation with the WHO, and protecting patients’ health and well-being.

This alliance welcomed the World Dental Federation (FDI) in 2005 and the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) in 2010.

Information sharing

As early as 1912, FIP published a multilingual bulletin once or twice a year and, in 1957, the first issue of *Journal Mondial de Pharmacie* was published. These periodicals provided continuous, expert and up-to-date information for pharmacists for 60 years. The last issue appeared in December 1972, when the journal became the *Bulletin d’information de la FIP* until 1980 (a bilingual journal).



Bulletin de la Federations Internationale Pharmaceutique (1912) and Journal Mondial de Pharmacies (1957)

The first issue of *Pharmacy International* was published in English in January 1980. This publication appeared monthly and rapidly established itself as a forum for scientific communication and debate among pharmacists throughout the world.

By 1987, FIP decided to replace *Pharmacy International* with the *International Pharmacy Journal (IPJ)*. The *IPJ* became an important communication tool for international

pharmacy, shedding light on pharmaceutical research and practice worldwide. It also reported on FIP and world pharmacy affairs and provided information on forthcoming pharmacy events.

In 2009, FIP took on the journal *Pharmacy Education* with the endorsement and support of the WHO and UNESCO under the FIP-UNESCO UNITWIN Programme.

FIP has embraced new technologies and became the first pharmaceutical organisation to have an active involvement on the internet, while seeking to provide a truly global network of information to its members. This focus on information technology led the federation to adopt a specific strategy in order to improve and expand its website and electronic communication system. By 2001, the official FIP website (www.fip.org) not only provided quick access to information on FIP activities and policies, but also facilitated membership application and renewal while establishing a fast and efficient communication with members.