

Report on the FIP Centennial Congress October 2-9, 2012 Amsterdam, Netherlands

Attendance at the FIP Congress in Amsterdam, marking the Centennial of FIP's founding in 1912, broke all previous records with over 5,500 delegates from 111 countries. There were a total of 51 delegates from Canada, including most of the Deans, representatives from Colleges of Pharmacy in AB, ON and QC, the Registrar of PEBC and Executive Directors of AFPC and CCAPP. Dennis Gorecki, Chair of the BPSC also attended. The largest delegation was from Nigeria with 331!

CPhA was represented by Paula MacNeil and Jeff Poston; Janet Cooper presented an oral communication in the Community Pharmacy Program on the Canadian Pharmacy Services Framework and we had three posters on display. Paula presented in the session on drug shortages, speaking to our experiences in Canada from a community pharmacy perspective. Jeff presented on health technology assessment in the Social and Administrative Pharmacy Program and spoke on Payment for Services in the Forum for Innovators. Jeff also chaired a national association leaders meeting with representatives from the UK, USA, Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Ireland. This adds a valuable European perspective to the insights we gain at Pharmintercom. Canadians Barb Farrell, Regis Vaillancourt, Sylvain Grenier and Yves Gariépy presented in other parts of the FIP program. It was interesting that despite a fairly healthy contribution we had members of the Canadian delegation asking why we were not presenting more!

This Congress was longer than usual with two days prior to the start of the Congress devoted to a series of roundtables (attended by Jeff Poston) and a Health Minister's summit at which Warren Meek, in his capacity as a member of the Executive Committee of the Community Pharmacy Section, was a rapporteur.

As a part of the Centennial celebration, member organizations signed a Centennial Declaration. This was a pledge to act in four areas: access to medicines; quality of medicines; responsible use of medicines; and building pharmacy capacity and collaboration.

Both Warren Meek and Regis Vaillancourt were made FIP Fellows in recognition of their contribution to FIP.

The program was massive with eight themes such as the health care team of the future, safe medicines, safe patients. These eight themes represented a total of 66 sessions, with each session having between two and 10 presentations. To say there was something for everyone was an understatement. Often sessions we were presenting in were running opposite other sessions we wanted to attend.

Highlights of the Congress included:

- A presentation of a major paper from IMS Health (220+ pages) documenting that worldwide \$500 billion in costs could be avoided if drugs were used optimally (<http://www.imshealth.com/portal/site/ims/menuitem.d248e29c86589c9c30e81c033208c22a/?vgnextoid=c721d5e151d8a310VgnVCM10000076192ca2RCRD&vgnnextchannel=437879d7f269e210VgnVCM10000071812ca2RCRD&vgnnextfmt=default>).
- Further information on models of generic tendering and generic price control from the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK.
- Jonathan Peck, the futurist from the Institute for Alternative Futures in Washington, presented on the future of sustainable health and pharmacy care—this was billed as a keynote; some of the content was new, but for such a well known presenter it was dry. He was basing much of the lecture on the book *Consilience* by EO Wilson.
- A series of video vignettes compiled by Warren Meek that run as a series in the Community Pharmacy Section program. The vignettes consisted of individual community pharmacists talking about their pharmacy and their work. What was fascinating was the range of countries included, with places as diverse as Nepal, Japan and the USA. This was very well done and Warren was recognized by the Community Pharmacy Section for this work.
- 2D bar code is gaining momentum in Europe as a means of combating counterfeit pharmaceutical products.
- KNMP, the Royal Dutch Pharmaceutical Society, have had a website monitoring drug shortages for 10 years.
- Release of a major global study by FIP on the pharmacy workforce.

Overall, pharmacy practice in Canada is ahead of many parts of the world; for example, the physicians lobby in Germany is so strong that any contemplation of expanded scope is seen by pharmacy as political suicide. Price cuts in countries that have always relied on a mark-up have had a devastating impact on community pharmacy (e.g., France). Price cuts of generics in Europe have been in the 90-95% range. Most pharmacists we talked to were surprised that we had not received more opposition from physicians on an expanded role.

The position statement on drug shortages that Jody Shkrobot successfully received approval for at last year's FIP Council meeting has created some momentum around the issue. There was a half-day session on drug shortages at this Congress, and we were approached to consider working with APhA and ASHP to host a one-day drug shortages summit in Washington sometime in 2013.

We were also approached to consider hosting the FIP Congress in 2017 to coincide with Canada's Sesquicentennial. We asked for details on what we would be involved in.

Respectfully submitted

Jeff Poston, Paula MacNeil, Janet Cooper