

FIP congress supplement ready now

Our extended coverage of the recent FIP congress is published in a 40-page supplement, writes Graeme Smith. Readers can ask for a copy now

For the third year running, *The Pharmaceutical Journal* has collated its reports from the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in a supplement (pictured right). The supplement contains coverage of the proceedings of the 67th congress of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), which took place in Beijing, China, from 31 August to 6 September.

Once again the FIP secretariat will be distributing copies from its headquarters in the Netherlands to FIP members and to all those who attended the congress. Readers who did not attend the congress but who are interested in reading about what went on there are encouraged to request their own personal copy of the supplement (see Panel).

Highlights

The supplement begins with a report of the address of FIP president Kamal Midha. Dr Midha told the congress that strong leadership is essential to ensuring that pharmacists' dedicated efforts produce fruitful results. "The health of all of us depends on each of us," he said.

The theme of the congress this year was "From anecdote to evidence: pharmacists helping patients make the best use of medicines" and the supplement contains reports on the four practice symposia, which examined:

- Personal, cultural and social belief systems
- The use of medicines
- Technical, scientific and evidence-based information resources about medicines
- Future issues with conventional and complementary and alternative medicines

The supplement also reports on two of the science symposia. One of these, on the growing importance of natural products, discusses the quality of natural products and research that is being carried out into them. The second, on the challenges of biologics, noted the importance of this market, which is predicted to rise to a value of \$79bn by 2010, amounting to 18 per cent of the total drug market.

Extensive coverage is given to an important joint practice/science symposium on combating counterfeiting. Speakers from around the world discussed the problem and described how their various countries are facing up to this global problem.

David Pruce, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's director of practice and quality improvement, was just one of several speakers from the UK whose presentations are reported. Mr Pruce spoke at a session for policy makers, where he told participants that pharmacists must be cognisant of their professional accountability.

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FIP congress
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Practice
The practice programme examined personal, cultural and social belief systems, resources about medicines and future issues (pp74-110)

Counterfeiting
A special session on combating medicines counterfeiting is reported (pp110-112)

Science
Reports from science sessions on natural products and biologics appear on pp13 and pp14

Special interest
Reports from FIP's special interest group sessions are on pp115-134

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**FIP 2007:
Helping patients
make the best
use of medicine**

A timely session, run jointly by the community and industrial sections of FIP, looked at how the impact of waste medicines on the environment could be lessened. However, a presentation by Stockholm City Council pointed out that there are no methods available to evaluate the possible effects of life-long exposure to extremely low levels of environmental drug residues on receptor mechanisms in humans.

There are other reports from sessions on the use of pictograms, the world-wide problem of non-adherence, responding to emergencies, cost containment, life-long learning and information resources on the internet.

Next year's congress will take place in Basel, Switzerland, and the 2009 congress is scheduled to take place in Istanbul, Turkey.

How to request a copy

Write to: Emma Kerby-Evans
The Pharmaceutical Journal
1 Lambeth High Street
London SE1 7JN

Tel: 020 7572 2414
Fax: 020 7572 2504
E-mail: emma.kerby-evans@pharmj.org.uk