



## Developing Medicines Information Services

This symposium has been organised by the Pharmacy Information Section of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). It aims to provide continuing education to pharmacists responsible for providing, developing or supporting medicines information services — ranging from pharmacists who specialise in medicines information to those responsible for maintaining and using information resources for clinical practice. The focus will be on enhancing services in regions with limited access to objective analysis and clinical information support.

The symposium will be held at the FIP Congress venue, the International Convention and Exhibition Center ([www.icec.org](http://www.icec.org)).

### Objectives

- Provide guidance in the development of independent information services to support clinical practice and encourage rational use of medicines.
- Share experiences and resources with pharmacists providing services in a range of countries and practice environments.
- Promote liaison between current and developing services.
- Investigate trends in modernising medicines information services and developing research opportunities.

### Faculty

- **Graeme Vernon**, Austin Health Drug Information, Australia (Co-ordinator)
- **Carlos Vidotti**, Brazilian Drug Information Center, Federal Council of Pharmacy, Brazil (Co-ordinator)
- **Shanthi Pal**, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
- **Christie Robinson**, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, University of California, San Francisco, USA
- **Ana Cristina Ribeiro Rama**, Medicines Information, Pharmacy Department, Coimbra University Hospitals, Coimbra University, Portugal
- **Candy Tsourounis**, Medication Outcomes Center, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, University of California, San Francisco, USA

### Program

<b>Thursday</b> 09:00 to 12:30 (Session 1)	<b>09:00–09:30. Welcome, introductions</b> (Graeme Vernon) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• aims, background of participants</li></ul> <b>09:30–10:00. Global perspective</b> (Carlos Vidotti) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• current activities and the need for independent medicines information services</li><li>• terminology: drug/medicines information, centre/service</li><li>• scope of services: clients, location, communications, educational activities</li><li>• international, national and regional networks</li><li>• trends in information delivery</li></ul> <b>10:00–10:15. Clinical services</b> (Graeme Vernon) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• integrating resources, skills and communications to create an effective clinical information service</li><li>• responding to individual health professionals and consumers</li></ul> <b>10:15–10:30. WHO Medicines Strategy 2008–2013</b> (Shanthi Pal) <i>Coffee break (30 minutes)</i>
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<p><b>Thursday</b> 09:00 to 12:30 (Session 1 continued)</p>	<p><b>11:00–11:30. Information sources – quality and reliability</b> (Christie Robinson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evidence levels in assessing drug therapy</li> <li>• primary sources of information</li> <li>• licensed product information, other information from manufacturers, textbooks, journals, independent sources of information</li> <li>• electronic clinical information resources</li> <li>• decision support in electronic prescribing and dispensing</li> </ul> <p><b>11:30–12:00. Guideline development</b> (Graeme Vernon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• role of the pharmacist in the production of independent information sources for health professionals and consumers</li> <li>• therapeutic guidelines and other material to promote rational use of medicines</li> <li>• comparing therapeutic options</li> <li>• cost–effectiveness reviews</li> </ul> <p><b>12:00–12:30. Access to information</b> (Christie Robinson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• medical and pharmaceutical journals; programs to improve global access to scientific literature</li> <li>• information support for health workers during disaster management</li> <li>• language barriers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Thursday</b> 13:30 to 17:00 (Session 2)</p>	<p><b>13:30–14:15. Bibliographic databases</b> (Graeme Vernon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medline/PubMed, Embase</li> <li>• indexing, searching</li> <li>• limitations</li> </ul> <p><b>14:15–14:45. Evidence-based medicine</b> (Candy Tsourounis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• principles of evidence-based medicine</li> <li>• Cochrane Collaboration and similar organisations</li> </ul> <p><b>14:45–15:15. Evidence into practice</b> (Ana Cristina Ribeiro Rama)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• applying clinical guidelines and evidence-based medicine to individuals</li> <li>• risk assessment in paediatrics, pregnancy/breastfeeding, renal/liver impairment</li> </ul> <p><i>Coffee break (30 minutes)</i></p> <p><b>15:45–16:15. Web-based information sources</b> (Christie Robinson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open access resources for health professionals</li> <li>• credible information sources for consumers</li> </ul> <p><b>16:15–17:00. New drug assessment</b> (Candy Tsourounis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advertising and indirect promotion</li> <li>• approaches to independent assessment</li> <li>• comparative analysis to assist clinicians and funding authorities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Friday</b> 08:30 to 12:00 (Session 3)</p>	<p><b>08:30–09:30. Pharmacovigilance</b> (Shanthi Pal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• role of medicines information resources in adverse reaction reporting</li> <li>• national and international databases of adverse reaction and error reports</li> <li>• supporting patient safety and avoiding medication errors.</li> </ul> <p><b>09:30–10:00. Bulletins</b> (Candy Tsourounis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bulletins and other activities to support rational use of medicines and pharmacovigilance</li> </ul> <p><i>Coffee break (30 minutes)</i></p>

<b>Friday</b> 08:30 to 12:00 (Session 3 continued)	<b>10:30–11:00. Administration</b> (Carlos Vidotti) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• funding, promotion</li> <li>• personnel and resource management</li> <li>• communications with clients, colleagues and funders</li> <li>• training for staff, external educational activities</li> </ul> <b>11:00–11:15. Quality assurance</b> (Graeme Vernon) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recording enquiries and archiving records</li> <li>• assessing the quality of responses to enquiries</li> </ul> <b>11:15–11:45. Establishing a new service</b> (Ana Cristina Ribeiro Rama) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inter-professional liaison</li> <li>• promotion</li> <li>• sustainability</li> <li>• challenges in transitional and developing countries</li> </ul> <b>11:45–12:00. Discussion, awarding of certificates</b> (Carlos Vidotti)
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### Accreditation Statement

This symposium has been planned and implemented by FIP in accordance with the policies of the Accreditation Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE). The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists has been approved by ACPE as a provider of continuing pharmaceutical education.

Program: #204-999-09-156-L04P      Credits: 9 hours (0.9 CEU)

The Statement of Credit shall be issued only after the successful completion of the program. Successful completion is defined as: 1) Signing-in on the attendance sheet for live programs. 2) Completing and signing a Statement of Attendance attesting to the number of hours actually attended. 3) Returning the program evaluation form.

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### Registration

Registration is only available in association with FIP Congress attendance ([www.fip.nl](http://www.fip.nl)).  
Symposium cost: €200.

### Contacts

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Prepared by Graeme Vernon, Executive Committee, Pharmacy Information Section  
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