



## 2009 FIP CONGRESS in ISTANBUL, TURKEY – A Week Worth Gold!

*Based on an article written by Christophe Rossier for the Journal pharmaSuisse, March 2008*

**It is a truth universally acknowledged yet seldom pursued: some of the most important professional experiences happen *outside* the dispensary.**

As a pharmacist in charge of a dispensing pharmacy, one should occasionally take a step outside the work environment to take a broad view of the practice, workplace and goals for the future. A holiday is fine for a change of scenery, but it does not provide a motivating atmosphere for deeper professional reflection – with the sun or snow calling, few want to think about work.

And that is why participating in a Pharmacists' Congress such as the FIP World Congress of Pharmacy is ideal. By not physically being in the dispensary, attention is not diverted to extinguishing the many small fires that break out every day; which we all know take much energy away from the role of a pharmacist. Still, mentally you are (to a degree) at the pharmacy, because you are amongst colleagues and peers and because conversation in the conference rooms, the corridors, and sometimes even at breakfast, revolves around the practice and future of the pharmacy profession. It is like taking an refreshing walk, far away from the everyday problems of the pharmacy (Was that order put through? Who can substitute for my sick assistant? Will Ms Huber's ointment be ready on time?). Relieved of the daily frenzy, you are able to focus on the long-term perspectives of your career and those factors which are influencing the profession as a whole.

### **Fruitful exchanges**

In the relaxed yet rewarding atmosphere of the FIP Congress, ideas and challenges can be exchanged with colleagues from all over the world who experience similar situations on a daily basis. It is an opportunity to share views about solutions, but also to mutually share unsolved problems and future perspectives. You have the opportunity to look beyond your own borders and discover what is happening in other countries.

From this, one often discovers that some countries have developed very effective strategies from which you can draw inspiration from similar situations, some much more critical elsewhere. It is a free and open environment in which forming networks and opening the lines of communication are of great importance and focus. There are no potential competitors or hidden agendas; all are there to learn and stimulate their career in an exciting foreign city.

#### **FACTS & FIGURES - TURKEY**

Total population of the country: 71,517,100  
Pharmacists: 30,725  
Community pharmacies: 24,119  
Pharmacy schools: 14  
Pharmacy students: 4,929  
Inhabitants per pharmacist: 2,328  
Inhabitants per pharmacy: 2,966

*Turkish Pharmacists Association Records (TEB) 2008*

The FIP Congress is also an excellent opportunity to become acquainted, first-hand, with leaders in pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences from all over the world. Whether it be in a standard plenary session, interactive workshops or mingling at one of the many relaxed social events, all who attend the FIP Congress are open to dialogue and achieving mutual goals the world over. The experience of sparking discussions with the leaders of our profession is always very gratifying!

The Congress Programme aims to bring participants together on one platform to examine these global issues through timely and relevant sessions, workshops and poster sessions. A Forum for Policy Makers will discuss the ownership rights of pharmacies – a topic which has direct influence on pharmacy practice; a special session on helping practitioners handle increased competition will focus on how to uphold the highest of professional standards while maintaining a successful business; the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Taskforce Consultation will discuss pharmacy workforce development and how trends in workforce and pharmacist migration are shaping pharmacy practice around the world; and practice-implemented initiatives such as the public health role of the pharmacist and current issues in CPD will all be on the table.

These and many more key topics relevant to all areas of pharmacy practice and the pharmaceutical sciences will be discussed through the five days of the FIP Congress. Don't miss your chance to absorb the latest and best information offered by the experts in these areas, all the while building your global network of peers and colleagues in one of the most intriguing cities of the world.

This year, take a step outside the pharmacy and come to the FIP Congress in Istanbul – it is an experience not to be missed!



***FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
3 – 8 September, 2009***

Register at [www.fip.org/istanbul2009](http://www.fip.org/istanbul2009)