



Report of the FIP 2025 Congress, Copenhagen, Denmark 30 August – 4 September 2025

The 83rd World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (FIP Copenhagen 2025) was a landmark event that brought together over 3,300 delegates from more than 100 countries under the theme *“Think Health, Think Pharmacist”*. The Congress, held alongside the FIP Council Meeting (30–31 August 2025), reaffirmed pharmacy’s vital role in global health transformation and set a unified agenda for advancing the profession through innovation, leadership, and collaboration.

The Opening Ceremony emphasised the profession’s leadership in strengthening primary healthcare and responding to global health challenges. A defining moment was the signing of the Copenhagen Declaration on AMR by 75 organisations, including the PSSA, representing a unified commitment to tackling this global threat. Awards and recognitions celebrated excellence across pharmaceutical science, education, and practice, while the FIP Foundation highlighted initiatives that promote health literacy, digital transformation, and workforce innovation.

The FIP Digital Pharmacy Summit explored how technology is transforming pharmacy practice globally. Discussions focused on artificial intelligence (AI), telepharmacy, drones, wearables, and blockchain, showcasing how these tools can improve patient access, medicine safety, and data-driven care. Ethical use, transparency, and patient-centred integration remained key priorities. Sessions on health literacy emphasised communication as central to equitable healthcare. Tools such as pictograms, medication guides, and teach-back methods were presented as practical strategies to improve patient understanding and engagement. The Congress reinforced pharmacists’ role as accessible health educators and advocates for patient autonomy.

Delegates learnt about the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in pharmacy education and examined how institutions can align academic curricula with changing healthcare needs through interdisciplinary collaboration and digital integration. Workforce sessions highlighted resilience, diversity, and leadership, encouraging mentorship, portfolio careers, and ongoing professional development. These strategies aim to develop a workforce capable of managing change and providing high-quality, patient-centred care in dynamic healthcare settings.

Advances in hospital and community pharmacy practice were highlighted through updates to the Basel Statements, establishing global standards for optimal medicines use. Denmark’s pharmacy model stood out for its digital prescriptions, robotic dispensing,

and comprehensive patient support services, illustrating innovation in action. Sustainability was equally emphasised through presentations that demonstrated the profession’s active contribution to climate action and responsible waste management, all while maintaining patient care quality.

South African Representation and Session Participation

South Africans once again made a strong mark at FIP 2025 through diverse and impactful contributions (list is not exhaustive):

- Dr Andy Gray and Prof Sabiha Essack – “Should Pharmacists Prescribe Antibiotics? The Global Respiratory Infection Partnership (GRIP)”
- Stephanus Hendriksz – “Pharmacist Storytelling: Real-world Impact of Digital Health”
- Refloe Mogale (PSSA) – “Pharmacist-Initiated Care and Prescribing (PCDT) in South Africa”
- Dr Sham Moodley – Session Chair: “Shaping Global Self-Care Policies: A Dialogue with Leaders on the Future of Self-Care”
- Dr Andy Gray – Session Chair: “Children Are Not Just Small Adults! Tailoring Science and Pharmaceutical Care to Our Youngest Patients”
- Dr Prinesh Reddy – “Navigating the Future: AI Frameworks in Healthcare Practice”
- Tammy Gopal – “Regulatory Harmonisation: Successes and Challenges Along the Pathway to Regulatory Convergence”
- Precious Ncayiyana – “Healing Heroes: Military Pharmacists in Action”

These engagements showcased South Africa’s leadership in digital health, policy development, antimicrobial stewardship, and self-care innovation.

Beyond presentations, South Africa’s delegation demonstrated exceptional unity and visibility throughout the Congress. The team engaged in a series of strategic networking meetings, building strong international partnerships and raising the country’s professional profile. Highlights included meetings with the FIP President, Mr Paul Sinclair, and FIP CEO, Dr Catherine Duggan, as well as productive engagements with the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) leadership. The South African team also connected with representatives from Canada, Scotland, Germany, Ireland, Norway, PGEU (Europe), Australia, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These

interactions provided valuable opportunities to share insights, exchange best practices, and explore potential collaborations in workforce development, professional regulation, and public health advocacy. The strong sense of unity and collaboration displayed by the South African delegation reinforced the country's position as a committed and respected member of the global pharmacy community.



SA delegation



Meeting the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association



PSSA collaborating with other FIP member organisations

The FIP Council Meeting convened 85 Member Organisations, four Observer Organisations, four Allied Organisations, eight FIP Sections, and five forums, making key decisions to shape the Federation's governance and strategic direction. In his annual report, FIP President Paul Sinclair highlighted key achievements, including FIP's active engagement at the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, where the delegation participated in over 66

side events. The Council adopted the new FIP Strategic Plan 2025–2030, outlining six strategic outcomes: access to medicines and health services; patient-centred pharmaceutical care; innovation and pharmaceutical sciences; strengthening pharmaceutical workforce development; AMR and a united for health approach; leadership, governance, and global engagement. The adoption of this plan established an ambitious vision for the next five years, ensuring the profession remains adaptable, equitable, and future-ready. Four new FIP Policy Statements were adopted:

- Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacy Practice (PSSA participated)
- Pharmacists: Gateway to Self-care
- People-centred Pharmaceutical Care
- The Role of Pharmacists in Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) (PSSA participated)

The FIP Copenhagen 2025 Congress demonstrated the pharmacy profession's collective drive to advance health through innovation, advocacy, and collaboration. South Africa's strong participation, thought leadership, and cohesive presence not only elevated its profile on the global stage but also reflected the strength and unity of the country's pharmacy community. As the global profession looks ahead to FIP Montreal 2026, the foundation laid in Copenhagen will continue to inspire collaboration, growth, and a shared commitment to improving health for all.



Catherine Duggan (FIP CEO), Refiloe Mogale (PSSA Exec Director) and Paul Sinclair (FIP President)



Closing dinner - SA delegation

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm distance learning programme 2025

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm distance learning programme continues to offer pharmacists useful, practical, up-to-date information that enables them to provide optimal pharmaceutical care to their patients.

Module 5, 2025 – Bipolar disorder

Sadness and joy are part of everyday life. Sadness is a natural response to loss or disappointment, and joy or elation is a natural response to success or achievements. Mood fluctuations, therefore, are normal responses to daily life because of either pleasant or unpleasant events.

However, severe and persistent mood swings that result in psychological distress and behavioural impairment may be symptoms of an underlying mood disorder. A mood disorder may be present when sadness or elation:

- Are overly intense and persistent
- Are accompanied by other symptoms that meet the criteria for

a mood disorder

- Significantly impair the person's capacity to function physically, socially and at work

In such cases, intense sadness is termed depression, and intense elation is termed mania.

The term bipolar disorder is based on the shift in moods between these two extremes, or poles, of mood disorders – depression and mania. The main characteristic separating bipolar disorders from other mood disorders is the presence of recurring mania or hypomania (a less severe form of mania) that may alternate with depressive episodes.

This module describes the clinical features and treatment of bipolar disorder, complemented by information on lifestyle modifications and psychosocial interventions.

For more information about this programme, contact Gill or Glynis at Insight Medicine Information on 011 706 6939 or email: cpdalphapharm@insightmed.co.za.

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm clinical education programme 2025 for pharmacy staff

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm pharmacy staff clinical education programme continues to offer front-shop assistants or pharmacists' assistants up-to-date information that enables them to provide optimal pharmaceutical care to their patients. All pharmacy staff need to be familiar with the use of unscheduled medicines and should be reminded of when it is necessary to refer the patient to the pharmacist.

Module 5, 2025 – Depression

Despite being one of the most common mental disorders worldwide, depression often goes unnoticed. Many people are reluctant to speak about their symptoms due to stigma, and some may perceive their condition as personal failure, rather than a real illness.

Depression does not just affect the person living with it, but may also impact their family, friends, and colleagues.

Depression is not the same as a temporary low mood. It is not a sign of personal weakness or a condition that can be willed or wished away. People with depression cannot merely "pull themselves together" and get better. Depression is treatable, and most people respond positively to treatment, which can include counselling, medication, and other supportive measures.

It is important to refer people with symptoms of possible depression to a doctor for appropriate assessment, accurate diagnosis and treatment. Once identified, it is important to offer support to those suffering from depression and to encourage them to persist with their treatment. By increasing awareness, you, as the Front Shop staff member, can play an important role in supporting mental health within the community. This module will help you to do just that.

If you would like to participate in the PSSA/Alpha Pharm pharmacy staff clinical education programme, please contact Gill or Glynis for further information on 011 706 6939 or email: cpdalphapharm@insightmed.co.za.

PSSA/Insight CE Programme for Pharmacists

Your CPD for 2026 - Stay informed. Stay inspired. Stay ahead.

Insight Medicine Information, in partnership with the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA), is proud to continue offering our highly regarded CPD Programme in 2026 — designed to keep you, the pharmacist, at the cutting edge of pharmacy practice.

This programme provides an effortless way to meet the South African Pharmacy Council's CPD requirements while keeping your knowledge current and clinically relevant.

The programme includes five convenient online study modules, released every two months on www.insightcpd.co.za. Each module features practical, evidence-based content to support confident, high-quality patient care, together with a multiple-choice assessment. Completing four out of five modules successfully will earn you a PSSA/Insight CPD Certificate at year-end.

Based on participant feedback, the proposed 2026 topics include:

- Hypertension – latest treatment guidelines
- Weight Loss – new medicines and management strategies

- ADHD – effective treatments to improve symptoms and functioning
- Osteoporosis – prevention and treatment updates
- Childhood Vaccinations – current recommendations, including catch-up schedules

These modules are crafted around the key learning areas that matter most to you and your daily practice.

Enrol today at www.insightcpd.co.za



Remember to register your staff for the **Pharmacy Staff Clinical Education Programme**, which runs in parallel with the Continuing Education (CE) Programme for pharmacists.

For registration queries or further information regarding the Continuing Education Programme for pharmacists or the Clinical Education Programme for Pharmacy Staff, please contact Glynis on tel. (011) 706 6939 or email: cpd@insightmed.co.za or see the website above.