



82nd World Congress on Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Cape Town, South Africa 1 to 4 September 2024

The programme for the 82nd World Congress was published online in April 2024 (<https://capetown2024.fip.org/programme-overview/>). It was developed with the congress theme of "Innovating for the future of pharmacy" in mind. In the previous issue of the SAPJ, the theme and the three subthemes focusing on equitable healthcare, drug innovations, and artificial intelligence (AI) were explained in detail. In this issue, readers are informed on what to expect from the academic programme at Congress.

Pre-congress events

Before the official opening of the Congress, participants are invited to explore the unique learning opportunities in the pre-congress symposiums. These will take place on Saturday, 31 August, and Sunday, 1 September, and offer a deep dive into the most pressing topics in our field.

- The FIP Digital Pharmacy Summit (Saturday, 31 August, from 9 am to 5 pm) is designed to equip pharmacists with the necessary skills to leverage technology for health promotion, disease prevention, and medication optimisation. This includes understanding the impact of technology and digital health on healthcare and pharmacy practices, identifying the opportunities and risks of AI in pharmacy, and recognising the importance of comprehensive education and training for building trust in AI-driven operations. Register on the online portal at R2 100 per person to secure your spot at this transformative Summit.
- The Industry Pharmacy Section (IPS) workshop, in collaboration with USP (Saturday 31 August 2024, 9 am to 5 pm), is a must-attend for those interested in the latest innovations in pharmaceutical manufacturing technologies and their implications for Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). In today's rapidly evolving pharmaceutical landscape, this knowledge is crucial for maintaining competitiveness and ensuring regulatory compliance. Register on the online portal at R2 600 per person for FIP members and R3 800 for FIP non-members to secure your seat for this insightful workshop.
- The Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) (Saturday, 31 August 2024, 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 1 September 2024, 9 am to noon) invites all Early Career Pharmaceutical Group (ECPG) and International Pharmaceutical Student Federation (IPSF) members to apply to attend the LDW in Cape Town. The workshop is designed to help build and develop leadership

skills for early carer pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, and students that they can use in future endeavours. Applications for this event closed on 1 June 2024.

- The FIP Global Academic Leaders Forum (Sunday, 1 September 2024, from 9 am to 12:30 pm) is an open event for academic pharmacy leaders (Deans, Heads of Schools, and School Directors) of Academic Institution Members (AIM) of FIP.

Sunday 1 September 2024

As we kick off our celebrations of Pharmacy Month 2024, we are also eagerly anticipating the arrival of Spring Day, which will add a touch of excitement and engagement to our event. Although the congress venue will be open for participants to collect registration badges, even if they are not attending any pre-congress events, it is vital to note that no lunch will be provided on this day to congress participants.

From noon to 1 pm, a First Timers session will be hosted, specifically for Congress participants attending the World Congress for the first time. At this session, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) will explain the Federation's vision and mission and elaborate on the structure and objectives the Federation aims to achieve. This event is an opportunity to meet other first-timers, FIP officials and FIP staff. This session is free to attend by all who, for the first time, attends an FIP World Congress.

All congress participants will be able to learn more about pharmacy in South Africa between 1 pm and 2:30 pm. This session, organised by the Cape Western Province Branch of the PSSA, will provide attendees with a snapshot of the different sectors, roles, positions, and settings pharmacists and pharmacy support personnel could perform in their scope of practice. Although the session is aimed at international participants visiting South Africa, locals are welcomed for moral support.

The official opening of the congress commences at 3 pm. The programme usually includes welcome addresses by the FIP President and other High Officials from the host country or province. Several awards and recognitions are also presented during this prestigious event. The dress code for this event is formal business attire (suit and tie) or traditional.

Following the opening ceremony is a welcome reception for all attendees in the Exhibition area, where light snacks and drinks will be served. This is the first view at the exhibition and an opportunity

to catch up with long-distance friends, visit exhibitors, build new networks or make new friends.

Academic programme on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (2-4 September 2024)

Each morning will start with an early morning session from 8 am. During these sessions, Member Organisations (like PSSA) will have the opportunity to share ideas with one another. At these sessions, countries will describe their leading projects, share pioneering initiatives, specify the challenges pharmacists face in different settings, express ideas about advancing pharmacy to a global audience or share ideas in a global network.

At 9 am, the formal academic day will commence with a Plenary session aligned with one of the congress's sub-themes. Topics include equitable quality healthcare, the AI revolution, and sustainability. At each of these 90-minute sessions, a number of high-level and world-class expert speakers will paint a diverse picture on the topic so that participants have a holistic understanding of pharmacy's role in each.

A coffee and tea break will allow participants to enjoy complimentary refreshments in the exhibition area. It is also an ideal time to view the poster presentations from around the world, identify potential collaborations, or learn things to take back to their own practice settings.

From 11 am, participants will have to choose among seven parallel sessions which one to attend. Among the choices are four sessions that align with one of the congress sub-themes, namely equity quality, drug discovery or AI; a dedicated science-based session; a locally influenced session; or a session referred to as a Rapid-fire session, which is a selection of short oral presentations from abstracts received. At each of these 90-minute sessions, experts will share their knowledge with attendees on the session topic. Look out for the South African experts taking the stage.

During the 2-hour lunch break, lunch will be served in the exhibition area, and participants will have time to network, build relationships, and visit the exhibitors and poster presenters. In addition, several lunchtime symposiums will be offered, which participants can attend. Sponsors organise these sessions on specific topics relating to the pharmacy profession.

The afternoon parallel session again spoils participants with seven options to broaden their knowledge and expand their skills.

Following the afternoon coffee and tea break from 4 pm to 4:30 pm, the academic day will conclude with a plenary session linked with the congress sub-themes. Topics such as innovative drug discovery, patient partnerships in universal health coverage, and

a concluding session on the future of healthcare, will bring the academic programme to a close.

Post-congress events

Although the Congress formally concludes on 4 September, participants could opt to join several events on Thursday, 5 September.

- An Educators' Summit focussing on responding to a call for innovation in pharmacy education and training (Thursday, 5 September 2024, from 9 am to noon) invites all academicians, educators, trainers, preceptors, and mentors to celebrate the education sector and discuss important determinants of pharmacy education with a community of international colleagues. Participants will be able to explore the issues and challenges relating to undergraduate and postgraduate education and continuing professional development, share solutions, introduce innovations and understand new educational guidelines and goals. Interested participants should register to attend via the online registration portal at R510 per person.
- The Cape Western Province Branch of the PSSA is organising Professional Tours (Thursday, 5 September 2024, 9 am to 3 pm) to various sector settings. There will be four tours focusing on visits to community pharmacies, hospital pharmacies, the pharmaceutical industry, and academia, respectively. Each tour will visit three facilities to showcase the sector's diversity. After the site visits, all tours will end at Pharmacy House, the branch office building, for a late lunch and visit to the museum, after which participants will be transported back to the CTICC. Although these tours are aimed at international participants, South African colleagues are also welcome to book through the online platform. The cost for the full-day tour is 60 euros (around R1 300) and includes a T-shirt. More detail is available on the congress website at <https://capetown2024.fip.org/professional-tours-thursday-05-september-2024/>.

PSSA members are reminded to make the most of this event being hosted in South Africa. Attend with an eager open mind to learn from others, share your insights and dream together about the prosperous future of pharmacy.

Social events with networking opportunities

During the Congress event, there are numerous social events and gatherings, which are ideal opportunities to network and build relationships with like-minded colleagues. For the full list of social events, please visit the official congress website at <https://capetown2024.fip.org/programme/social-events/> or refer back to the January/February 2024 issue of the SAPJ.

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm distance learning programme 2024

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 2, 2024 – Eczema – New Insights

Eczema imposes a considerable burden on and substantially impairs the quality of life of patients and their families.

Eczema occurs most frequently in children but also affects adults. It is often associated with a personal or family history of atopy, which is a group of disorders that include eczema, asthma, and allergic rhinitis, also referred to as the “atopic triad”. Several

studies have linked the incidence and severity of eczema during childhood with later development of allergic rhinitis and asthma.

This module reviews the current information on eczema, its causes, and approaches to management.

The pharmacist is in an ideal position to provide patients with information on proper preventative skincare and can counsel patients on the appropriate management and treatment of their eczema.

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 2024 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 2, 2024 – Eczema

Eczema is a skin problem that causes dry, itchy, scaly, and red skin. It is the most common skin disorder in children and causes tremendous suffering to the child and his/her caregivers.

Eczema occurs most frequently in children but can also affect adults. It is estimated that up to 1 in 5 children and 1 in 20 adults may be affected by eczema at some point.

This module looks at eczema, its causes, symptoms, prevention, and treatment, and outlines the role of the Front Shop Pharmacy Staff in helping patients with eczema.

Eczema affects the quality of life of patients and their caregivers. Itching can be intolerable and affect sleep, and the need to apply emollients regularly can become a burden, particularly during symptom-free periods.

The Front Shop member of staff in the pharmacy can play a valuable role in assisting patients living with eczema and their caregivers.

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.