

Western Pacific Feature - Newsletter 96 - Dec 2021

Dear Colleagues,

On the threshold of the New Year I would like to start with wishing you a healthy and inspired New Year. Looking back for everyone COVID-19 will have been a large theme during the last year. A year in which healthcare workers worldwide have had to work beyond their 'normal' duties. Traits engrained in most hospital pharmacists have been crucial to continue patient care at the best possible level in changing circumstances: the possibility to adapt processes to uphold or even increase efficiency in times of rapidly shifting insights in treatments and/or shortages, and the dedication to contribute with specific skills and knowledge in areas varying from logistic supply chains to multidisciplinary teams. In this newsletter you will find examples from the Western Pacific region and beyond. I find it inspiring to be part of the global hospital pharmacy community.

At the threshold there is also the looking back at persons who are no longer with us. No doubt many of us have had to say goodbye to dear ones. I hope you can draw strength from good memories and perhaps inspiration they provided. As a HPS community we remember Joseph Oddis, whose in memoriam was published in an earlier edition of this HPS newsletter. In this edition we remember Jan Carel Kutsch Lojenga. Both have been inspirational to many in our community.

Looking ahead I do hope you will continue to come up with inspirational ideas and make these ideas come to fruition in both your private live and our professional live.

Happy New Year,
Rob Moss, President FIP Hospital Pharmacy Section



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Celebrating the Expanded Roles of Hospital Pharmacists in the Philippines

Hospital Pharmacists in the Philippines are among the healthcare workers with an important role in the fight against COVID-19. The Philippines, having around 2.8M confirmed cases as of November 2021, challenged not only the abilities in ensuring availability of essential medicines and supply, tested the skills in preparing compounded sterile preparations of remdesivir and tocilizumab, but also tested the resilience of Filipino pharmacists.

The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPhA) firmly believes that the involvement of pharmacists is vital in the fight against this pandemic. The pharmacists serve as champions in advocating the government's vaccination deployment plans. In fact, in the middle of the pandemic, the immunizing pharmacists came into actuality and more pharmacists were certified to administer adult vaccines. With the advent of vaccines for COVID-19, the hospital pharmacists played an active role in ensuring the integrity of the vaccines, appropriate preparation and administration.

True to the mission of The Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacists (PSHP), to promote safe and effective use of medication by enhancing the competence of hospital pharmacists and by collaborating with healthcare professionals and allied organizations to improve the health and well-being of patients, the PSHP organized webinars, with different PSHP sections handling nutrition support, clinical pharmacy and compounding. Most importantly, topics that would address mental well-being were also included.

The Society highlighted the efforts of hospital pharmacists in a virtual event on September 25, World Pharmacists Day. The FIP theme was very appropriate. Pharmacy: Always Trusted for Your Health. It highlighted TRUST, which is the fundamental basis for all relationships. It demonstrated the firm belief in the

reliability, truth, strength and ability of the pharmacists.

In our continued battle against this pandemic, we reminded everyone that trust is built over time. Not in a day, but day after day, hence consistency is vital. Finally, we recognize that we have been called to shine our light of faithfulness, integrity and excellence in the workplace that have been chosen for us. And as we always say to celebrate the perseverance, compassion and bravery of every hospital pharmacist, “Mabuhay ang Filipino Hospital Pharmacists!”

~ Christina Liza R. Sta. Maria

President, The Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacists



United Efforts of Singapore's Hospital Pharmacists in the Fight Against COVID-19

It's been almost two years after the coronavirus first emerged, with most of the world slowly transitioning into a new normal and learning to live with COVID-19. However, within the healthcare system, healthcare workers are still in fierce battle with COVID-19, managing multiple stressors and challenges faced with the advent of the pandemic.

In Singapore, hospital pharmacists have been busy working across various forefronts of the healthcare scene:

1. Ensuring continued access to medications through sourcing essential medications, managing supply chain disruptions, and rapidly ramping up nation-wide medication delivery services;
2. Optimizing appropriate use and minimize misuse of medications through debunking misinformation and myths, developing evidence-based protocols, and embarking on medication stewardship;
3. Tackling emerging healthcare issues through bridging gaps in care delivery, reassuring anxious patients and other healthcare professions, and leveraging on new technologies to bridge the virtual distance associated with telemedicine and social distancing;
4. Maintaining and delivering a high level of medication and patient safety standards in our existing medication review, supply of medication, and educational activities.

Despite limited public visibility, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have actively answered the nation's call to fight the pandemic. Many have stepped up and gone above and beyond, contributing to ensure quality and continued access of healthcare for our patients, despite the adversity and challenges along the way.

As the pandemic evolved, Singapore hospital pharmacists have learnt to become lean, resourceful, and agile, finding innovative solutions and confidence to manage the multiple uncertainties in this new normal of split teams and safe

management measures. Finding that essential social glue to cement the team whilst tackling these challenges can be tricky, and it becomes even more paramount to look out for our junior teammates who are trying to learn the ropes and build independence whilst balancing all these unique demands. Pharmacy technicians have also been essential partners in our joint fight, supporting us all along the way in medication distribution and prescription processing activities. Whilst we all play different roles, it is important to be deliberate and foster resilience as a community to combat burnout and strengthen the Pharmacy team in these dynamic times combating COVID-19.

~ Mr Chong Jin Jian

Pharmacist

Department of Pharmacy, Singapore General Hospital

~ Dr Wang Aiwen

Principal Clinical Pharmacist, Lecturer

Department of Pharmacy, Singapore General Hospital

Department of Pharmacy, National University of Singapore



The Role of the Pharmacist in Korea during the COVID-19 Pandemic

On January 20, 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in South Korea, but drug information for treatment was very scarce. Hospital pharmacists began to search for information on treatment and provided it to infectious disease doctors.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine assigned by the COVAX facility was finally delivered to Korea for the first time on February 26, 2021. The initial supply was very limited, so four infectious disease specialty hospitals were the major immunization centers in charge of administration to medical staff treating COVID-19 patients.

The pharmacists at each center prepared the equipment and facilities for the safe storage and management of vaccines. Each center has a vaccine storage room, dispensing room, and distribution room. After thawing the vaccine stored in the cryogenic freezer in a refrigerated state, we were responsible for subdividing the units so that they could be delivered to hospitals for the treatment of corona patients.

The four vaccination centers were given the role of administering vaccinations of the early part of the initial vaccine, preparing the standard model of the regional vaccination center, and educating personnel. We produced vaccine comparison tables, work manuals, online video training materials, and conducted field training as well as the preparation of vaccines.

Since then, as the supply of vaccines has become sufficient, many pharmacists are participating in the management and dispensing of vaccines supplied to hospitals, and the management of booster shots are also in progress from October 2021.

Hospital pharmacists with inpatients are managing the treatments (remdesivir, reqdanvimab) supplied by the government. Some hospitals also take the role of

managing medicines for patients in life treatment centers.

Recently, to prevent the problem of antibiotic resistance, which is thought to become more problematic after COVID-19, there is much interest in enabling antibiotic stewardship programs (ASP) to be established at the national level.

In order to cope with possible infectious diseases in the future, the management of many medicines, including vaccines, will become more and more important. In order to safely and effectively use medicines during an infectious disease pandemic, we are constantly striving to establish an institutional mechanism that allows pharmacists to take on professional roles.

~ Eunjung Hwang

Director of Pharmacy, Pusan National University Yangsan Hospital



Hackathon Workshop in Taiwan

During the COVID-19 pandemic, medical services are moving towards a digital era. To prevent infections outbreak, developing video consultation, telemedicine, and even virtual education, make information technology (IT) more

important. In addition to providing communication between people during the pandemic, making good use of IT has become a trend to solve medical-related problems and challenges. “Hackathon” is a term combined with “hack” and “marathon” and it means that teams stimulate innovative thought or ideas with implementation of IT (hack) in a limited time (marathon). In Taiwan, presidential-hackathon competition is the grandest event of hackathon from 2018 and it contains a variety of topics such as “Human Capital”, “Circular Economy”, “Energy Transition to Accelerate Decarbonization”, etc. but it seldom includes pharmaceutical field. As a result, Taiwanese pharmacists are the rookies in hackathon competitions, and we know very little about it. However, the annual meeting of FIP in 2019 in Ankara, the capital of Turkey, had held a hackathon event named “design an innovative solution in addressing non communicable diseases”. During this three-day event, the participant not only learned about the spirit of the hackathon, but also shared the team's innovation and development results from the brainstorming of team members. The sharing of tidbits after the event inspired us to learn the true value of hackathon. Therefore, from 11/25/2021 to 11/26/2021 Taiwan International Pharmacy Advancement Association (TIPAA) held a hackathon workshop, leading Taiwanese pharmacists to enter this vast field.

During the two-day event, we invited Professor Huang as a speaker to talk about the big data model, a brand-new knowledge and technology for pharmacists. The lecture is divided into two parts, one is “Mining association rule” and the other is “Classification” at 11/25/2021 daytime. Besides the course learning, the professor also gave us examples like “Conditions for the survival of the Titanic” and “Mining the association of shopping behavior” to guide us in operating the software. After dinner, team members would discuss a topic that could be a retrospective research data they had collected already, or a problem still not be solved to try on the software we learned at daytime. At the second day, there were four group presentations about the topics what they had discuss last night and the professor would give guidance and response. A topic “Risk analysis of multidrug-resistant gram-negative bacteria (MDR-GNB) infection in patients undergoing abdominal surgery” was talking about the risk factors of MDR-GNB infections. They used the classification model to analyze the attributes of several variables and finally output the decision tree. There was an interesting finding that the most favorable factor of MDR-GNB infections is different between the analysis by classification model and by logistic regression. The logistic regression method was the original analysis tool of the raw data they have done before.

In these two days of enriching activities, we learned that the combination of information technology allows us to have more tools and methods to solve our difficulties and challenges. In the end of the workshop, we sent the satisfaction survey to each participant and the result is 100% willing to promote the workshop continuously. We are very glad to hear that and eventually workshop had ended successfully. We hope that in the future we will have a way to explore the field of hackathons in more depth, and even participate in competitions.

~ Chen-Yao Ho



**Expert ‘crowd-sourced’ vision to
2026 as inaugural *Pharmacy
Forecast Australia* released**

A new strategic thought leadership piece on emerging trends and phenomena projected to impact pharmacy practice and the health of Australian patients to 2026 has synthesised the visions of 100 leading practitioners through ‘wisdom of crowds’ methodology for the first time in Australia.

Released in June 2021 by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA), *Pharmacy Forecast Australia 2021* will help equip Australia’s hospital pharmacy departments to proactively position themselves and their teams for potential future events, as identified by 82 survey respondents in November 2020, and contextualised into recommendations by the report’s 19 authors, spanning six themes.

Developed under the auspices of the Pharmacy Forecast Advisory Committee, the 25 recommendations of *Pharmacy Forecast Australia 2021* include encouragement for pharmacy leaders to:

- identify barriers to implementing collaborative prescribing
- advocate for increased pharmacy informatics roles that harness smart technology to inform safe systems
- unite behind robust national system performance measures for pharmacy procurement
- actively participate in discussions around policies and funding reforms that increase access and equity to medications
- lead the transition to biosimilars by developing clear education and management processes
- centralise medication safety in all workforce planning, including through SHPA Advanced Training Residencies
- invest in the ongoing professional development of hospital pharmacy technicians
- advocate for closed loop medication management systems
- increase the prevalence, safety and effectiveness of pharmacy telehealth services.

SHPA President Peter Fowler says ‘partner perspectives’ from key organisations contextualise the recommendations in themes of aligned interest.

‘Our members and their peers are specialised pharmacists embedded in medical teams, who collaborate to advance the safe and quality use of medicines and

whose leadership shapes multidisciplinary responses to Australia's National Preventive Health Strategy focus areas.

'It is therefore appropriate our Forecast pages feature perspectives from like-minded organisations, and we thank our contributors from the Australian Medical Association, Medicines Australia, Consumer Health Foundation of Australia, Council of Pharmacy Schools, NPS MedicineWise and Australian Digital Health Agency.'

Other HPS News

Report from Indonesia

The Indonesian Association of Hospital Pharmacists (HISFARSI) organised its Annual Conference on 4-6 November, 2021 in Yogyakarta with the theme of "A to Z interprofessional collaboration for better patient outcomes". This event was held virtually due to the pandemic situation and was successful with more than 2000 participants. Mr. Budi Gunadi Sadikin, Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, opened the event and delivered a keynote speech. He emphasized the importance of good communication between healthcare professionals to improve clinical outcomes of patients. More than 50 sessions were delivered with various formats: plenary, simultaneous symposiums and workshops, oral and poster presentations, a clinical pharmacy olympiad, and innovation video contest. The HISFARSI distinguished award this year was presented to Dr. Sutoto, the CEO of KARS (The Indonesian Commission for Hospital Accreditation) for his works and advocacy to promote the existence of hospital pharmacists.

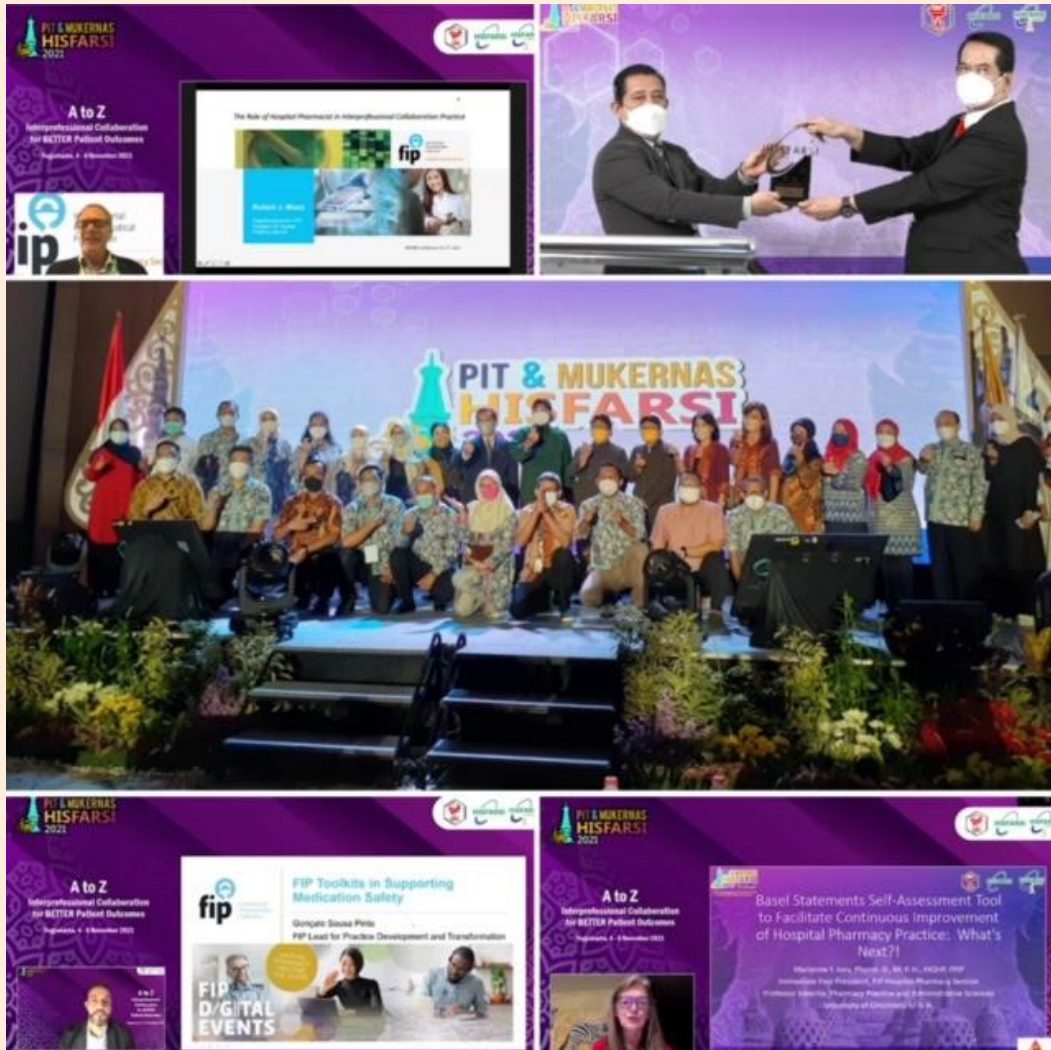
Speakers from FIP also contributed to this event. Mr. Robert Moss, President of the FIP Hospital Pharmacy Section, talked about the role of pharmacists in interprofessional collaborative practice, while Professor Marianne Ivey and Ms. Yulia Trisna discussed the Basel Statements Self Assessment Tool. Mr. Gonçalo Sousa Pinto, FIP's lead for practice development and transformation, explained how colleagues can use FIP's toolkits on medication reconciliation and medicines

use review to support medication safety.

At the end of the conference, Ms. Endang Budiarti, chair of HISFARSI Clinical Pharmacy Section and Dr. Rohan Elliott from Australia shared their inspiring experience on how to start interprofessional collaborative practice.

- Anggraini Citra

HISFARSI



COVID-19 Resources

Several hospital pharmacy groups have created useful resources related to COVID-19:

EAHP: <https://www.eahp.eu/hp-practice/hospital-pharmacy/eahp-covid-19-resource-centre>

ASHP: <https://www.ashp.org/COVID-19?loginreturnUrl=SSOCheckOnly>

RPS: <https://www.rpharms.com/coronavirus>

SHPA: <https://www.shpa.org.au/covid-19>

A Tribute to Jan Carel Kutsch Lojenga

Jan Carel Kutsch Lojenga made an indelible contribution to the Hospital Pharmacists Section for which we should be very grateful. He served two terms as Treasurer of the Section from 1986 - 1994 and in this role laid a firm foundation for its financial resources and stability. He did this in two ways: first by convincing FIP to provide more financial support for the sections through his strong leadership in the FIP Section Treasurers meetings, and secondly by his conservative oversight over the Section spending. He was a shrewd negotiator and a thrifty steward of the Section finances.

Jan Carel became HPS President in 1994 and continued his strong leadership through good communications and being very clear about his position on important issues. There was a real sense of his commitment to and caring about the Section during his term. During this time the stature of hospital pharmacy grew and became more respected within FIP. Past-president Tom Thielke remarked that “Jan Carel was a good mentor to me as an immediate past-president when I followed him as Section President.”

As Section members, we are sorry to hear of the passing of Jan Carel Kutsch Lojenga, but we celebrate the contribution he made as HPS Treasurer and President in laying the foundation upon which the Section has built what it is today.

~ Phil Schneider and Tom Thielke

Webinars

Webinars on Demand

FIP continues to host a rich series of webinars on a variety of relevant topics. All are available in the [FIP library](#). We think you may be particularly interested in:

- Supporting self-care: Children's health (16 Dec)
- Supporting self-care: Gastrointestinal complaints and treatment (2 Dec)
- The role of pharmacists in the prevention, screening, and treatment management of HIV: An international update (1 Dec)
- Accelerating AMR action through antimicrobial stewardship: Are pharmacists the protagonists in the fight against antibiotic resistance? (30 Nov)
- FIP "Setting goals for the decade ahead", FIP Development Goal 17: Antimicrobial stewardship (24 Nov)
- Role of the hospital pharmacist in antimicrobial stewardship and sepsis management (19 Nov)
- Leadership summit on pharmacy-based vaccination policy and advocacy (18 Nov)
- COVID-19 complications: What should pharmacists know? (16 Nov)
- What technology can bring to cytotoxic drugs compounding (9 Nov)
- Digital health and hospital pharmacy (4 Oct)

...and last but certainly not least, a recorded [Webinar](#) providing helpful tips for completing the Basel Statements Assessment Survey



FIP HPS Research

How to get hospital pharmacists involved in practice-based research

A recent systematic review was published that identified barriers and facilitators for hospital pharmacists to undertake practice-based research. The systematic review searched MEDLINE, Embase, International Pharmaceutical Abstracts and Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature databases from 1 January 2000 to 11 March 2021. In total, 9 studies were included and identified barriers and facilitators across four broad themes: (1) pharmacist capacity and capability, (2) workplace environment, (3) research resources, and (4) research culture. Hospital pharmacists had a high interest in conducting research, but limited research experience. Common barriers identified were lack of time, workplace support, funding, research culture, and competing priorities. Having a post-graduate qualification and a positive attitude towards research facilitated research participation. Departmental support, designated research time and creation of research networks and forums were seen as facilitators for practice-based research.

For more detail, access the whole article [here](#).



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The Japanese Society of Hospital Pharmacists



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About the Hospital Pharmacy Section

Founded in 1957, the FIP Hospital Pharmacy Section focuses on education, communication, and improving the practice of pharmacy in hospitals around the world.



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