

The Pharmaceutical Sciences A Global, a Regional and a National Perspective

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The pharmaceutical sciences are going through a unprecedented period of growth worldwide. Information technology, material sciences and molecular biology form the basis for this boost. Questions can be raised: How do we choose the right diseases targets? How do we develop the proper enabling sciences and technologies? What are the ethical implications?

Global level

To address these questions at a *global* level the Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences provides a neutral platform for discussion. The Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the FIP not only offers this discussion platform. Its members also take the initiative to look into the future to identify, analyse and address opportunities and challenges that the pharmaceutical sciences as a translational discipline will encounter. Moreover, the Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences organises outreach programmes to support developing countries in setting up quality systems and training programmes where needed. The Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences is the scientific branch of the FIP. Its sister branch is the Board of Pharmacy Practice (BPP), dealing with the professional side of pharmacy. The combination of the two, BPS and BPP in one FIP organisation ensures a direct exchange of ideas between the designers of new medicines (BPS) and providers of medicines (BPP) creating a lively interplay of medicines experts with, in the end, the patient as beneficiary.

May I use this opportunity to thank the Japanese pharmaceutical scientist organisations for their strong, active and continuous support of the FIP and, more in particular, the Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Your leadership and guidance is highly appreciated!

Regional level: EUFEPS

At the *European* level a regional organisation has emerged. Fifteen years ago the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Sciences was born: EUFEPS. Its goals is to serve and represent the European pharmaceutical scientist. Over twenty national organisations have joined EUFEPS now and its activities and (individual membership) have been growing over time at a rapid pace. Since some time networks of expertise ('special interest groups') are becoming active (bioequivalence, individualised medicine, 'simulation sciences', pharmaceutical biotechnology and –coming- medicinal chemistry). EUFEPS sees the Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences as its main vehicle to interact at a global level with other leading organisations in the field.

National level: the Dutch Top Institute Pharma, TIPharma

TIPharma is a public-private-partnership. Academia, industry and the Dutch government work together to stimulate the pharmaceutical sciences in the Netherlands. Annually, 60 million euros (75 million \$) are brought together by the partners in a 1 :1: 2 ratio (academia: industry: government) to perform high quality, pre-competitive research. 200 Ph.D. 's and 150 post-docs will be financed by this virtual institute. At present all Dutch universities, 15 globally operating pharmaceutical companies and 15 small and medium sized enterprises are partnering in this unique initiative to boost the pharmaceutical sciences in the Netherlands and..... beyond.

Finally, PSWC2007: *The Pharmaceutical Sciences World Conference 2007 (PSWC2007)* will be held in Amsterdam. This is THE opportunity to listen to top scientists from al over the world, meet your colleagues, form networks..... www.fip.org/pswc.