

# Hospital Pharmacy: A Global Profession Makes History

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*No one knows what the future looks like,  
so we can invent it, be part of it.*  
—Gerd Leonhard, Swiss futurist

Can you imagine a gathering of 348 hospital pharmacists from 98 countries? What would they talk about? What could CSHP share? On August 30 and 31, Basel, Switzerland, was the site of the first-ever Global Conference on the Future of Hospital Pharmacy, sponsored by the Hospital Pharmacy Section of the International Pharmaceutical Federation. While Feng Chang represented the Society at various preparatory consultation sessions, Myrella Roy was the official delegate for Canadian hospital pharmacists at the conference. I was intrigued by the event, so I attended as a regular delegate.

We went to Basel to define the role of hospital pharmacists and to decide how it should evolve to meet the future needs of our patients. We were looking for global solidarity and collaboration through the tools of wisdom, experience, and youth. We also wanted to identify opportunities for global advancement of hospital pharmacy.

Planning for the conference started with a global survey of hospital pharmacy practice in 2007. Responses from 85 countries representing 86% of the world's population determined the 6 focus topics of the conference: medication procurement, prescribing, preparation and distribution, and administration, as well as monitoring of medication therapy and human resources and training. Delegates discussed the topics electronically before the conference.

In Basel, small group discussion and debate continued for several hours. We listened and learned, challenged and empowered each other. We were shocked, surprised, disappointed, disheartened, enthused, and encouraged to hear about the ways in which hospital pharmacy is practised around the world. We crafted 74 consensus statements, based on our mission to optimize patient outcomes through judicious, safe, efficacious, appropriate, and cost-effective use of medicines in spite of the challenges of health care reforms, technological advances, lack of resources, an aging population, and new models of care. All 74 statements were overwhelmingly approved when the official

delegates voted. It is hoped that these statements will prompt hospital pharmacists to evaluate their own practices to improve patient safety and medication outcomes. They should also assist national efforts to advance hospital pharmacy practice.

What did I learn in Basel? Canadians have the luxury of regulations to ensure the availability of high-quality medicines. In many other countries, the hospital pharmacist's biggest concern is ensuring the integrity of the medicine supply chain to avoid counterfeit medicines. Others do not even have access to patients' records or physicians' orders! Human resources and specialized training programs for hospital pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are global concerns. Task-shifting to pharmacy technicians is growing.

In turn, I was proud of what CSHP was able to share with the world: the CSHP *Professional Standards for Hospital Pharmacy Practice* and the synopsis report of the Moving Forward: Pharmacy Human Resources for the Future project.

Conference co-chair Henri Manasse Jr (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists [ASHP]) challenged delegates to share the Basel statements in our respective countries and to feel empowered to act on them. The other co-chair, Jacqueline Surugue (European Association of Hospital Pharmacists), simply encouraged us to "Make it happen!"

The global survey and conference proceedings will be published as a special supplement to the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* in early 2009. The consensus statements are available at <http://www.fip.org/globalhosp/>. A follow-up international meeting is scheduled for the ASHP 2008 Midyear Clinical Meeting. CSHP will continue to update members on this topic.



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