



Breaking New Ground: South Africa Hosts the 82nd FIP World Congress on Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

In 2024, it will be the first time in FIP's 112 years of existence that the World Congress will be hosted in sub-Saharan Africa. The bid process to bring this World Congress to Africa commenced in 2017 when the PSSA submitted its first bid to FIP. After being unsuccessful initially and delays resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the time has finally arrived to welcome the global pharmacy profession to the southern tip of Africa in 2024. The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) is the congress partner for the 82nd International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP) World Congress on Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The Congress will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, from 1-4 September 2024 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC). The theme is "Innovating for the future of healthcare".

Attending the annual FIP World Congress is indeed a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Due to the financial commitment of travelling abroad, not many South Africans have been able to utilise the opportunity of attending this global event. Bringing the FIP World Congress to South Africa is the most accessible opportunity for South African pharmacists and pharmacist's assistants to learn from and network with global experts.

Registration to attend the Congress

Registration for the Congress opens in January 2024. Participants will either register as ordinary participants (pharmacists and qualified pharmacist's assistants graduating before September 2016; and non-pharmacists) or as recent graduates (current BPharm students; current learner pharmacist's assistants; and recent graduates who graduated/qualified after September 2016).

The registration fees are tiered over three tiers. The early bird registration will end on 31 May 2024, followed by the second registration deadline on 15 August 2024, leaving the last registrations close to the Congress.

The Congress registration fee for participants will include the following:

- Attendance of the "Pharmacy in South Africa" session on Sunday, 1 September 2024.

- Attendance of the First Timers' Reception on Sunday, 1 September 2024, for delegates attending an FIP Congress for the first time.
- Attendance of the Opening Ceremony on Sunday, 1 September 2024.
- Attendance of the Welcome Reception on Sunday evening, 1 September 2024, in the exhibition hall.
- Admission to all academic sessions from Monday, 2 September to Wednesday, 4 September 2024.
- Access to the exhibition and the poster sessions from Monday, 2 September to Wednesday, 4 September 2024.
- Coffee, tea, and lunch breaks from Monday, 2 September to Wednesday, 4 September 2024 (excluding Sunday, 1 September 2024).
- Name tag and lanyard.
- Congress bag (only if pre-ordered).
- Access to all submitted abstracts online.
- Final pocket programme (only if pre-ordered).
- Access to the congress application, including the list of participants (name and country).
- Access to a website where you can download the presentation slides of the speakers who gave permission (from 5 September 2024).

A typical day at the Congress will commence formally at 09h00, with a 90-minute plenary session to set the theme for the day. These plenary sessions will showcase keynote speakers from around the world and experts in their respective fields of pharmacy. Before this plenary, breakfast symposiums on relevant topics, as well as sessions hosting a variety of FIP Member Organisations who showcase pharmacy, sciences, and education in their countries, commence at 07h30.

After a tea and coffee break of 30 minutes in the exhibition hall, parallel sessions commence at 11h00 and run till 12h30. These parallel sessions are universal and link with the congress theme, sub-themes, and day's theme. These sessions were proposed and developed by the FIP structures, which include the sections, special interest groups, technical advisory groups, FIP Education

Programme outline

	SUNDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2024	MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2024	TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2024	WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2024
Early morning	-	Industry breakfast symposia	Industry breakfast symposia	Industry breakfast symposia
Morning	Workshops & Pharmacy in South Africa	Plenary session & Parallel sessions	Plenary session & Parallel sessions	Plenary session & Parallel sessions
Lunch	Industry lunch symposia	Industry lunch symposia	Industry lunch symposia	Industry lunch symposia
Afternoon	Opening Ceremony	Plenary session & Parallel sessions	Plenary session & Parallel sessions	Plenary session
Evening	Welcome Reception	Section & SIG dinners	ECPG evening	Closing dinner

Figure 1: indicates a simplistic outline of the Congress programme.

and the Early Career Pharmaceutical Group (ECPG) (previously known as FIP's Young Pharmacists' Group).

During the 2-hour lunch break from 12h30 to 14h30, participants can visit the exhibition hall where various poster presenters will showcase their research applicable to different sectors or special interest groups related to pharmacy. There will also be lunchtime symposiums on relevant clinical or scientific topics.

In the afternoon, there will again be parallel sessions running for 90 minutes, followed by a tea and coffee break at 16h00 before the academic programme concludes with a 60-minute plenary session, which will conclude the discussion and theme of the day with keynote speakers.

Closer to the Congress, pre- or post-congress workshops or symposiums may be advertised. These may be a half or full-day event, and a clear indication of what participants can expect will be included in the communication. These events are mostly not included in the Congress registration fee, and interested participants will have to pay for them in addition to the Congress registration fee.

Social events during the Congress

Apart from working hard during the day when attending sessions, interacting with poster presenters, networking, and building relationships, there are also several social events to consider joining in the evenings.

Attendance at the Welcome Reception in the exhibition hall on Sunday, 1 September 2024, is included as part of the registration process. Light finger food and drinks will be served as we celebrate the start of Pharmacy Month 2024.

On the evening of Monday, 2 September, all FIP Sections will host a dinner where like-minded colleagues can network and engage with peers with the same interests. There are currently eight FIP Sections:

- Academic pharmacy
- Clinical biology
- Community pharmacy
- Health and medicines information
- Hospital pharmacy
- Industrial pharmacy
- Military and emergency pharmacy
- Social and administrative pharmacy

All scientists are invited to the Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences dinner. To attend any of these dinners, participants must book a ticket during registration. These dinners are formal sit-down events with a three-course meal or similar. The venues for all dinners will be near or in the V&A Waterfront.

For the Comrades and parkrun enthusiasts, there will be a 5 km fun run on Tuesday, 3 September 2024, at 07h00 in the Waterfront vicinity. Participation is through a donation to the FIP Foundation for Research and Education and can also be booked during registration.

The youngsters will have an Early Career Social night, organised by the FIP ECPG and the International Pharmaceutical Student Federation (IPSF). Eligible participants can book tickets to attend the evening during the registration process. Light finger food and drinks will be served, and the event will occur at the V&A Waterfront. All other delegates to make their own arrangements with local colleagues they haven't seen in a while or newly founded friendships with international colleagues.

The final social event will be the Congress Closing Dinner on Wednesday, 4 September 2024. This formal sit-down event will be the last opportunity to enjoy this once in a lifetime event with local and international colleagues. The dinner will take place at the V&A Waterfront and transport between the CTICC and venue will be available. Tickets to the closing dinner can be booked during the registration process.

Keep in mind that space is limited for all social events, and that once tickets are sold out, no additional seats can be added. Participants interested in joining social events should not wait until last minute to book tickets.

General registration information

Payment of registration fee: all fees must be paid by credit card (Visa, Eurocard/Mastercard or PayPal) during the registration process. Instructions for payment will be available on the payment page of the registration website. For security reasons, FIP does not manually charge credit cards from their office. Your registration will only be finalised once the full registration amount has been paid and received.

After completing your registration, you will receive an automatically generated email/invoice acknowledging your registration submission and confirming your payment. If you do not receive this, please check your spam filter before emailing congress@fip.org. **Note: the PSSA is not managing the Congress registrations.**

In the last week of August 2024, you will receive a final information email, including a link to view all submitted abstracts. Please view the terms and conditions for cancellation of registration on the congress website here: <https://capetown2024.fip.org/registration/registration-guidelines/>

To avoid unnecessary printing, all participants will be emailed their certificate of congress attendance as a PDF within 10 days of the close of the Congress. Accompanying persons do not receive a certificate of attendance.

The Congress registration fee does not include accommodation or transportation to and from Cape Town. Each participant should book their preferred accommodation and method of travel themselves based on their needs.

Enquiries

For more information or clarity regarding the 2024 FIP World Congress, contact Mariet at mariet@pssa.org.za or at 0124709560.

All registration queries should be directed to FIP at congress@fip.org.

Visit the official Congress website for more information: <https://capetown2024.fip.org/>

The banner is a composite image. The top half shows two scientists in white lab coats; one is pointing at a digital interface with charts and graphs, while the other stands with arms crossed. The bottom half shows a panoramic view of Cape Town, including Table Mountain and the harbor. Overlaid on the right side is the FIP logo (a blue circle with a white 'fip' text) and the event details: 'CAPE TOWN 2024 FIP WORLD CONGRESS 1-4 September'. A red square logo with a white stylized figure is also present. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the text '82nd FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences' and the website 'capetown2024.fip.org'.

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 1, 2024 – Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) – an update for the pharmacist

Occasional reflux is normal and can occur in healthy infants, children, and adults, most often after eating a meal. These episodes are brief and do not cause bothersome symptoms or complications. In contrast, people with gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) experience bothersome symptoms or damage to the oesophagus because of the acid reflux.

Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) is one of the most common gastrointestinal conditions, affecting 10 to 20% of adults in Western societies. It also occurs frequently in infants.

Much has changed but much has remained the same in the management of GORD. For example, although proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) remain the medical treatment of choice for GORD, some publications have raised questions about adverse events, raising questions about the long-term use and over-prescribing of PPIs.

This module provides evidence-based recommendations and practical guidance for the pharmacist on the management of GORD, including both lifestyle and treatment approaches.

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 pharmacist's 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 1, 2024 – Heartburn

Heartburn is a burning feeling in the middle of the chest behind the breastbone. It is caused by stomach acid travelling up towards the throat (i.e. acid reflux).

Occasional reflux is normal and can occur in healthy infants, children, and adults, most often after a meal. Many people experience heartburn from time to time, caused or worsened by certain foods or drinks, smoking, pregnancy, stress, and anxiety. Recurrent heartburn, however, is one of the main symptoms of gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD).

Several simple lifestyle and dietary changes can help reduce or prevent heartburn. Patients presenting in the pharmacy with mild and intermittent symptoms of heartburn may be managed with over-the-counter (OTC) medicines such as antacids or alginate-antacid combinations. Patients presenting with more frequent symptoms (two or more episodes a week) and patients not responding to antacids may be managed with a short course of other OTC acid-reducing medicines.

Heartburn is common and usually responds well to these interventions. However, it is important for the front shop staff in the pharmacy to recognise patients with persistent or recurring heartburn, or unusual or more severe symptoms who require referral to the doctor.

This module discusses heartburn and the management of heartburn in the community pharmacy setting with lifestyle and dietary changes and OTC medicines.

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.