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NZAPS-O Report of the 63rd IPSF World Congress, Taipei, Taiwan, 2017

The International Pharmaceutical Student's Federation (IPSF) represents pharmaceutical students, pharmacy students and recent graduates from over 100 countries from all over the world. IPSF aims to promote improved public health through provision of information, education, networking and a range of publications and professional initiatives. They work closely with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) to succeed in achieving their goals. IPSF also provide opportunities for our students to attend a range of congresses/symposiums to share our opinions and represent NZAPS-O on a larger level. Every year there is a highly-anticipated World Congress (WC). This year it was held in Taipei, Taiwan in July-August. This congress was a ten-day event where delegates from over 80 different countries attend educational and social events.

This year, five New Zealand delegates represented NZAPS-O. These consisted of three official delegates who are all fourth-year students and members of our executive committee; our President Alice Weil, Liaison and Contact Person Quimby Vicar, and Student Exchange and Welfare Officer Laura Pinn, as well as two other delegates, third year students Nadine King and Ruby Gallavin.

A General Assembly (GA) was held most days of the congress. In GA at last year's WC, NZAPS-O were voted in as full members of IPSF which gives us voting rights so we can voice our opinions and influence the decisions on the all the international matters discussed. Our three official delegates joined others from each of the other countries in GA discussing the happenings from the last year and future plans for the Federation as well as ideas on how pharmaceutical education and promotion can be improved throughout the world. Other aspects of GA included presentations from countries applying to join IPSF, and the IPSF executive committee's reports which highlighted projects IPSF runs that delegations can be a part of too. This gives us ideas as to campaigns we can run here in New Zealand, and ways to improve the structure and running of our organisation. Elections for the following year's executive committee also occurs in GA.

During General Assembly we were appointed as one of the Member Associations in the Auditing Committee for 2017-2018. This will involve us looking over the IPSF Treasurer's Report, World Congress National Report and the Regional Symposium Financial Reports over the next year. This is an exciting opportunity for NZAPS-O and our members to be more involved in IPSF and have even more of a say.

During the IPSF congress, we had the opportunity to attend many workshops spanning various topics. Some of the topics included the World Health Organisation's sustainability goals, inter-professional education (IPE), pharmaco-economics and pharmaco-epidemiology. Our



delegates participated in the former two. These workshops helped broaden our knowledge and question the differences and similarities of pharmacy education and practice in New Zealand compared to other countries. The WHO sustainability goals workshop had us given two mysterious countries and made us critically evaluate the health burdens in that particular country and present it to our workshop. The IPE workshop was familiar, as we have IPE integrated into our degree in New Zealand. This workshop was interesting to attend, as it explained reasoning behind why IPE is so important for health care providers.

There were also many opportunities at the congress to attend various competitions. These included a patient counselling event, clinical skills event, compounding event and a jeopardy quiz event. However, we were not able to attend all of these due to our interest in workshops that coincided with these events. The events that our delegates participated in were the compounding event and the jeopardy event. The compounding event consisted of approximately 30 people, of which there were 2 sections. An advanced and beginners section. Our delegates took part in the advanced section. This involved creating an ointment and capsule based on Traditional Chinese Medicines, in which ingredients such as sesame seed oil and cinnamon were used. Labels were hand-written and attached to the products along with a question and answer booklet that included calculations among other things. This was a great experience for us to get to see how Traditional Chinese Medicines are made and used. Four of the NZAPS-O delegates participated in the jeopardy quiz. This was a quiz based on the show 'jeopardy'. There were groups representing various countries such as New Zealand, Australia, U.S.A and Malaysia. New Zealand managed to place second in this event, with Australia securing first place. This event used knowledge gained from our studies and was an enjoyable event for our delegates.

Two of the days on congress didn't have workshops and GA, but instead had symposia. These symposia consisted of a variety of speakers from all throughout the pharmacy profession giving short talks on their expertise. The first day was an educational symposium with speakers from within pharmacy education sector. These talks were interesting as some of the material aligned with what we are taught in our pharmacy school while other material was very different and eye opening. One of the talks, 'The importance, Progress, Future Improvement and Expectation of Pharmacy Education on Complementary and Alternative Medicine' was interesting as few of the students I was sitting with knew much about complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) whereas for myself, it was nice to see that Otago is up with current and newer ideas surrounding CAM. On the opposite end of the spectrum for myself was the talk called 'From the Business Point of View – How to Promote Academia-Industry Collaboration in Early Stage' which I found very interesting and nothing like what we see or are taught about in New Zealand. The following day was a scientific symposium with a similar layout and included talks titled 'Experience in Taiwan Equity: Make it For All – Strategic goal making and pursuing of health coverage' and 'Experience in Taiwan Efficiency: The Balance Between the Health Outcomes Patients Want and the Cost to Achieve Them' to name a couple. At the end of each block of talks, there was what was called 'round table' where the speakers came back out on stage and answered questions from the audience. It was interesting to see the varied line of questioning from the students, questions you yourself wouldn't think of, so this was very valuable.



As well as the many educational opportunities this congress offered, there were many social opportunities to network with other students in our profession from all over the globe. Each of the evenings provided a variety of social events to attend where we could chat to these people. It was very interesting to not only socialise with others from cultures much different from our own, but also hear what studying pharmacy and being a pharmacist is like in their country. This insight is something few others have. From this we have made strong relationships that we are able to use in the future not only to motivate ourselves to further our careers but also to improve NZAPS-O and the activities we run.

Next year, the IPSF world congress will be held in Mendoza, Argentina.

Yours Sincerely,

Quimby Vicar

Contact Person and Liaison Representative for NZAPS-O

Special thanks to our generous sponsors for helping the NZAPS-O delegates attend these congresses

