



International
Pharmaceutical
Federation

Young Pharmacists Group

I am a Pharmacist! Are you?

2010/2011

4th edition

YPG Newsletter

FIP Young Pharmacists Group

I am a Pharmacist! Are you?

FIP has launched a new project: I am a Pharmacist!

This project is beginning with a world-wide initiative to map every pharmacist possible – a sort of "Google Maps" of pharmacists based on the connections FIP has with all of our Members and throughout all the places we visit, connect to and interact with for the purpose of advancing pharmacy worldwide.

Currently, over 960 pharmacists have dropped their pin on their location at <http://iamapharmacist.com/> with almost 850 of your peers and colleagues Like-ing us on Facebook! Join them – visit the site and let the world know you are a pharmacist and where to find you!

As this project progresses, we will be asking everyone to participate on a higher level. Soon, we will send out a request for videos – videos from all over the globe from pharmacists wishing to tell the world about their dedication to the profession, how they connect to their communities for the sake of better health and what it truly means to be a pharmacist. All videos should end by saying 'I am a pharmacist!'.

In doing so, FIP hopes to build energy and enthusiasm within the profession and respect and admiration outwards as we build towards our FIP Centennial Congress in 2012 in Amsterdam.

Thank you in advance for helping us make this happen – for now, go and drop your pin! And stay tuned for your invitation to send us your video.

The FIP Team

Join us at:

<http://iamapharmacist.com/>

I am a pharmacist.

I work in a cancer hospital focused on curing cancer, one patient at a time. I help cure cancer in patients by managing other pharmacists who monitor patients' chemotherapy treatments to so they are most effective and have the least side effects. I work with nurses and physicians to provide the best environment of care for our patients. I have had eight years of education at two different universities to get a doctor of pharmacy and a master of science in pharmacy administration to help me be the pharmacist I am today. I help others be better pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and support personnel, so that they can work to cure cancer too. I am able to do this because I am a pharmacist.



Ryan A. Forrey
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I am a pharmacist.

Before that, I was a pharmacist technician. Now I work in chain pharmacy opened 13 hours a day, 7 days a week. I dispense medicines 4 days a week. On the fifth day, I am also the communication skills instructor - I help pharmacists to communicate with patients effectively. I coach them to raise the patient's adherence to therapy. I am one of the founders of Czech Young Pharmacists' Group and I am studying PhD at the Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Pharmacy focused on pharmacists' education and expectations. I do not have much of the free time :-). Because I dedicate my free time to work. I am the pharmacist and I am extremely proud of it!



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I am a pharmacist.

I have been managing a community pharmacy in Portugal for almost 6 years now. My daily routine comprise of patient counselling and dispensing, blood biochemical analysis and a myriad of activities related both to pharmacy practice and business management.

Currently the profit margin of medicines is being reduced dramatically in Portugal and that is forcing community pharmacies to adopt new management processes and rethink their internal procedures while keeping high standards of professionalism and ethics. It is a time of change and challenge, and I have only been able to cope with it because I'm a pharmacist.

Do you have national group of young pharmacists?

contact us at ypg@fip.org



Neeven Abdelghani
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I am a pharmacist.

And a very non-traditional one! I work at a research institute that supports clinical trials on investigational medications being conducted at the hospital and outpatient clinics of a large county medical center. I received my fellowship training in pediatric infectious diseases and utilized my pharmacy and regulatory degrees to help me branch out into clinical research. I work on interdisciplinary teams made up of study coordinators, nurses, and physicians and together, we care for subjects participating in a wide variety of both industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated studies. I find that every day is an opportunity to learn something new and improve my skills as a pharmacist and healthcare practitioner. As I look toward the future and an exciting potential move into international public health, I can very confidently say that I am where I am because I am a pharmacist!

“Cross-disciplinary and cross-national work is fascinating..”

Zoe Lim (Malaysia)

I had thought research work was boring, toiling and unrewarding. As a pharmacist, I enjoyed lively patient interactions; and gained satisfaction from seeing clinical progress in patients. In November 2008, I started my doctoral study as a 'default option' to my career development. Little did I realise I actually had walked myself into one of the most wonderful journeys in my life – a 'wonderland' full of adventure, laughter, tears, courage, fear.. it has been a fulfilling experience though it has not yet bore any 'fruit' (i.e. I have yet to get my PhD!)! Let me tell you why..

I came to this PhD with a research idea completely different from what I ended up to do. Through an opportunity working with the 'WHO-UNESCO-FIP Pharmacy Education Taskforce' (or PET), which is an international coalition tasked with developing pharmacy education jointly by pharmacy educators around the world, I was given the mandate to do a 'case study' in one of countries that signed up to the PET (i.e. Malawi). The case study was about researching local (in this case, Malawian) solutions toward expanding capacity for pharmacy education in resource poor settings.

I did a three-month fieldwork (i.e. data collection) in Malawi from May to August 2010. Reflecting on this, I must thank my supervisors, Prof Claire Anderson and Prof Simon McGrath, as well as leaders of PET for having the confidence in a novel researcher like me to complete the task. I am also very grateful to all people in Malawi who have helped me throughout the fieldwork; and those who have opened my eyes to many life lessons.



Guess what was the first reaction when friends and family back home saw this picture? 'This is so dangerous! Are you crazy?!' But indeed it was not at all – there was a large flat ground behind me (but unseen from this angle) and I was absolutely safe. Just like the myth about Africa (as a place ONLY of poverty, hunger, diseases), we tend to judge things based on just one perspective therefore we tend to mis-judge. Africa is BEAUTIFUL – though not always being promoted the same way as other more popular tourist destinations.

Coming face-to-face with extreme poverty makes me realise how I had taken 'basic facilities' I enjoyed over the years for granted. I started to appreciate simple things like having running water and electricity. The children in Malawi, clad in rags and ran bare feet, taught me how simple happiness could be – their smiles are imprinted in my heart forever 😊 Such real (i.e. non Facebook, non virtual) human interaction really touched me; and gave me the most precious lesson about 'friendship' for the rest of my life.

I was received very warmly in Malawi, especially by children who have the brightest smiles and funniest movements in front of a camera!



Indeed, research work has given me a space for contemplation; a room for trying out new ideas; and a chance to link up with people whom I otherwise would not have met. Stepping out of the discipline I have been familiar with (i.e. pharmacy) was initially petrifying. However it turned out to be really rewarding when I started to learn about new perspectives from other disciplines (i.e. education, development, philosophy, etc..). Cross-disciplinary and cross-national work is fascinating and I shall keep my faith in continuing this path. However this path is still very much 'under-explored' and I wish more could join me in the future!

“Being part of the process of educating young pharmacy students has putting over me a reassuring responsibility about their future...”

Bruno Sarmento, Portugal



My name is Bruno Sarmento, I'm an Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics at the Instituto Superior de Ciências da Saúde Norte in Portugal and a Researcher Associate of the Faculty of Pharmacy of University of Porto, also in Portugal. I have been involved with these two careers for more than 4 years, and in the meantime, I'm actively interested on the actions of FIP and YPG.

I have a wonderful job! Being part of the process of educating young pharmacy students, specially on what I consider the "Holy Grail" of pharmaceutical sciences, the pharmaceutical technology, has putting over me a reassuring responsibility about their future. Nevertheless, the possibility of follow my teaching activities with scientific investigate responsibilities keeps me very close to the new subjects of the pharmaceutical technology and allows me to be as updated as possible with the knowledge that every year I try to introduce on my classes.

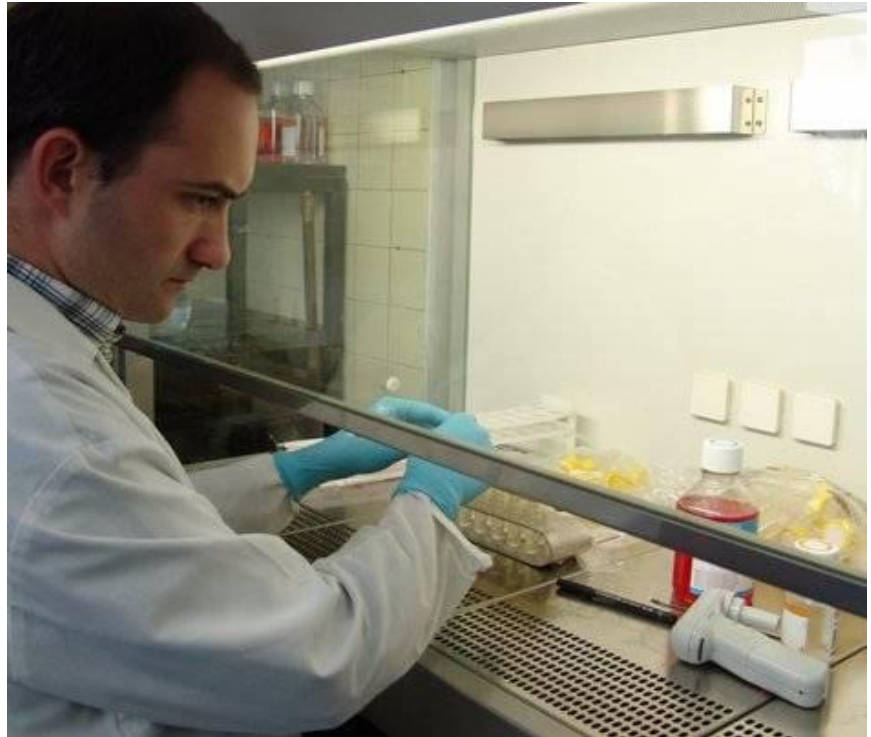
In the past I had professional experiences on Community Pharmacy and Professional Associations, but I have to tell you with sincerity: it is extremely thankful the reward of forward teachings and scientific education.

I had the chance to travel a lot during the period of my grad studies. It is one of the great advantages of my profession, as well. I conducted my studies at the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology of Faculty of Pharmacy of University of Porto, at the Chemical Engineering Department, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, at the Department of Pharmaceutics and Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark and Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

My weekday use to start very early. I'm a skylark by nature, a clear advantage for who is engaged with management, both in classes or in the lab. I split my work in prepare and teach pharmaceutical technology classes, and supervise my grad students in the lab. It is an easy-gong work, especially after a few years of teaching experience.

Luckily, it has been possible to schedule my classes, focus my attention in the doubts and challenges for undergrad students, in one hand, and in the other hand, conduct the research projects of graduate students in the most original, profitable and innovative way.

I use to be the first to arrive to the faculty every morning, and start my workday by checking and reply e-mail messages. Students are very close to professors in these days; e-learning platforms and e-mail messages are used to keep open the communication channels. Undergrad students enquire with lots of issues, not only a special subject of the last classes, but look for help in other disciplines and matters. Also, in the scientific community, the e-mail is a fundamental tool to be updated with the latest publications, one of our indicators. Most of the scientific collaborations are based on e-mail exchange, since our pairs are in different labs around the world.



“I am passionate about education, helping to advance the profession of pharmacy, and improving public health...”

Vibhuti Arya, U.S.A.



My name is Vibhuti Arya, PharmD and I am currently an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Clinical Pharmacy Practice Department at St. John's University College of Pharmacy & Allied Health Professions in New York City, USA. I have taught in the area of pharmaceutical care, cultural competency, nutraceuticals, alternative medicine, and public health.

As part of my teaching appointment, I work with the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene in the Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Control Program, in efforts to integrate pharmacists into primary care and to help shape and implement health policy aimed towards increasing access to care for high-risk medically underserved communities in New York. To date, I have worked on a city-wide public health detailing campaign to educate community pharmacists and primary care providers on identifying and addressing barriers to medication adherence, increasing awareness of pharmacist-delivered Medication Therapy Management, and on policy affairs to expand pharmacists' scope of practice in New York State.

My research and scholarship focuses on bringing public health perspectives to pharmacy education and preparing pharmacy students to help advance the role of pharmacists in public health. I am passionate about education, helping to advance the profession of pharmacy, and improving public health. In the classroom, moreover, my work focuses on introducing complementary and alternative modalities of healing to pharmacy students, and bridging the gap to incorporate various cultural perspectives in western medicine. In practice, I am focusing on building the framework for effective community pharmacist-led Medication Therapy Management delivered to high-risk patients in New York City.

I have been engaged with the policy process for several years, working with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), where I served as National President for the Academy of Student Pharmacists and a member of the APhA Board of Trustees. The term was focused on increasing awareness of cultural perspectives in healthcare through innovative grassroots efforts and programming. Upon receiving my Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) from St. John's University, completed a two-year residency program in Pharmaceutical Care Leadership at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, where my research project focused on creating international experiences for PharmD students. I continue to focus on my interests in cultural competency and do consulting work delivering workshops and seminars to national and international audiences surrounding this issue. Moreover, I also work with incorporating cultural healing perspectives in western medicine as I practice holistic healing. Recently, I co-authored a chapter in the area of pharmacists' role in reducing health disparities and improving public health, that was published in *The Pharmacist in Public Health: Education, Applications, and Opportunities*, now available in print.

Join us at:

<http://iamapharmacist.com/>

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and talk about
Compromising Safety
and Quality, a Risky
Path

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Participants will be engaged in such issues as their role in ensuring patients receive quality medicines, safe medicines and increasing both the safety and cost-effectiveness of services.

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We're waiting to meet you!

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