

To the Presidents of FIP's Member Organisations

The Hague, 13 March 2020
Ref.: GS001637/DJ/CD/Rvk

Subject: Join us at the 73rd World Health Assembly in May in Geneva, Switzerland

Dear President of FIP's Member Organisation,

The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO). Every year, the event is attended by delegations from all WHO member states and non-state actors, with focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the WHO Executive Board. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.

Since the creation of WHO, FIP has held the status of Non-governmental Organisations (NGO) in Official Relations with WHO, together with over 200 NGOs with similar status. FIP is therefore allowed to attend the meetings of the governing bodies of WHO such as the World Health Assembly and related side events to voice our opinions on matters important to us. FIP will be attending the 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA), opening on 17th May and closing no later than 21st May 2020, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Following the interest and success of last year, we are setting up the second year of opportunity for colleagues to join us and to be part of FIP's official delegation at this year's World Health Assembly. As a FIP-delegate, you would be able to attend the sessions of the Plenary Session of the World Health Assembly as well as the sessions of the Committees (A and B) on WHO strategic priority matters and technical matters. We will share the provisional agenda once available. You would also be able to attend WHA side events organised by the non-stake actors. FIP is planning to co-organise sides event on vaccination and on self-care together with other NGOs and you would be cordially invited to attend the event in due course.

Please note the spaces are very limited and we will accept the interests based on first-come, first served principle. Please **apply by filling out the Expression of Interest form** at the end of this letter **by Monday, 23 March 2020**.

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Australia

Please note your participation needs to be approved by FIP, as part of official FIP delegation permitted by the WHO, prior to the WHA so please do not engage in any activities before knowing the result of your application. Once your application is approved, you will be asked to promptly submit personal information such as copy of your passport and a personal ID photograph.

In addition, on 16 May in Geneva, together with the World Health Professions Alliance, FIP is co-organising the 6th World Health Professions Regulation Conference (WHPRC 2020) on new insights, diverse perspectives and emerging solutions to current challenges in health professional regulation. More information on programme, venue and registration is available here: <https://www.whpa.org/events/whprc-2020>.

In addition, please note that based on the World Health Organization's declaration of COVID-19 being a public health emergency of international concern, we are constantly appraising the emerging facts and changing situations and will keep you posted with any changes to our plans at FIP. This includes any extension of the Swiss Government's ban on public gathering, currently to end of March, which may impact the WHA event being held.

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Important:

Financial assistance from the FIP will not be available for the World Health Assembly (WHA). Each participant is responsible for all the costs involved in his or her participation in the WHA such as, but not limited to, the following: accommodation, travel, and food. FIP is not responsible for any personal loss or injury which may be incurred by the participant during the WHA. Please note we are unable to offer support with the visa process to Switzerland.

The participants are responsible for their own travel and visa requirements. Those participants who require an entry visa to Geneva, Switzerland must allow sufficient time for the application procedure. FIP will be sending an invitation letter upon request, to support the participant's visa application.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact FIP Executive Secretary, Ms Rachel van Kesteren at Rachel@fip.org.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Mr Dominique Jordan, consisting of a stylized, flowing script.

Mr Dominique Jordan
President, FIP

A black ink signature of Dr Catherine Duggan, featuring a bold, blocky script.

Dr Catherine Duggan, PhD, FRPharmS
Chief Executive Officer, FIP

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

to attend 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) between the 17th and the 21st of May 2020, in Geneva, Switzerland as part of the official delegation of the International Pharmaceutical Federation

Name: _____

Position: _____

Organization: _____

Country: _____

I understand that the financial assistance from the FIP will not be available for the World Health Assembly (WHA). I will be responsible for all the costs involved in my participation in the WHA such as, but not limited to, the following: accommodation, travel, and food. FIP is not responsible for any personal loss or injury which may be incurred during the WHA. I understand my participation needs to be approved by FIP, as part of official FIP delegation approved by the WHO, prior to the WHA. I am responsible for my travel and visa requirements and I will allow sufficient time for the visa application procedure. I understand that FIP is unable to offer support with the visa process to Switzerland.

Signature:

Date: _____

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Please apply by filling out this Expression of Interest form and sending it to Rachel@fip.org at your earliest convenience, but no later than **Monday, 23 March 2020**.