



# FIP congress reports

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# Intelligence report from FIP finds expansion of testing services in pharmacies

Point-of-care testing (POCT) in community pharmacies is becoming more common, and now includes streptococcus A pharyngitis, coeliac disease, influenza, hepatitis C, and HIV, in addition to older tests for diabetes and high cholesterol. These are findings published by FIP this month in “[Pharmacy-based point-of-care testing: A global intelligence report](#)”. The new publication brings together evidence from a literature review, findings from a survey of 25 countries, 11 case studies, and the discussion of a FIP insight board, giving an overview of pharmacist-led POCT interventions around the world.



## FIP meets with Uruguay's health minister

Changing the pharmacy model in Uruguay to ensure the effective presence of pharmacists at all times as a precondition to implementing professional services was one of the topics that FIP, the Pharmaceutical Forum of the Americas and FIP member the Uruguayan Association of Chemistry and Pharmacy discussed with Karina Rando, Uruguay's health minister at a meeting in Montevideo this month. Also discussed were digital health and the inclusion of private community pharmacies in the future e-prescribing system. The minister was given a copy of FIP's [policy statement on digital health](#) and the forum's Declaration of Bogata on the



## Findings shared on positive practice in community sector

Developing continuous evidence-based solutions dedicated to mental health and well-being of pharmacists and tailored to the unique challenges faced in community pharmacy is one of six recommendations issued by FIP's Community Pharmacy Section this month. The recommendations were made as a result of a literature review and global survey to investigate barriers and enablers related to sustaining current community pharmacy services and undertaking expanded services, pharmacists' mental health and well-being, and positive practice environments. The findings are published in a report titled “[Workforce sustainability and](#)

role of pharmacists in primary health care.

[supporting positive practice in community pharmacy](#)".



## Countries urged to assess regulatory systems' support of pharmacist actions against SF medicines

A new tool to aid countries in assessing the sufficiency of their regulatory systems supporting pharmacy interventions against substandard and falsified (SF) medicines was launched by FIP this month. The "[Substandard and falsified medical products: Regulatory self-assessment tool](#)" aims to facilitate the detection, quarantine and removal of SF medical products from the pharmaceutical supply chain through supportive legislation, FIP said.

Developed by FIP's Regulators Advisory Group, the tool covers pharmacist-led roles and the responsibilities of health ministries. "FIP has been speaking out against SF medical products for over 20 years and this self-assessment tool is another mechanism to decrease the impact of SF medical products on patient care," said FIP Regulators Advisory Group chair Brett Simmonds.

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 FIP events



## Green deal for sustainable health care

Sustainability initiatives being implemented in different countries were presented during a series of FIP congress sessions giving the floor to FIP member organisations. In the Netherlands, for example, enabled by a "green pharmacy" toolkit, waste is being discouraged, the difference in environmental impact of different routes of medicine administration is being measured, and medicines are being delivered by bike and drone.

[Read more](#)



## How to start your journey helping in an ecological crisis

FIP's 2023 Olivier Bugnon Award winner Shellyza Moledina Sajwani's award lecture took place at the FIP congress in Brisbane. Dr Moledina is

co-founder of the Canadian Association of Pharmacy for the Environment.

[Read more](#)



## mRNA therapies are being optimised

The success of RNA-based therapeutics for COVID-19 amplified interest in other RNA-targeting therapies. A session at the FIP congress in Brisbane, Australia, looked at the development of mRNA therapeutics for vaccines and its next step in cancer treatment.

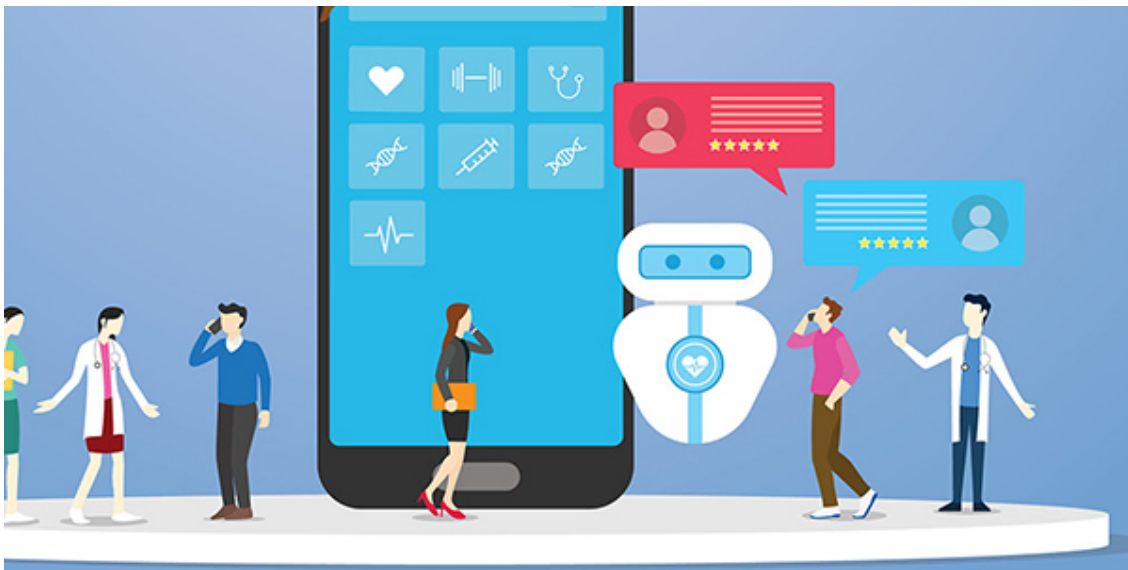
[Read more](#)



## Machine learning is revolutionising drug discovery

Almost all major pharmaceutical companies are employing machine learning to assist in drug discovery and development, FIP congress participants were told. A report from the congress provides an overview of the opportunities and possibilities.

[Read more](#)



## How "honest" is my chatbot?

The development of artificial intelligence and its potential application in pharmacy practice was explored at a FIP congress session in Brisbane. Discussions included the accuracy of chatbots such as Chat GPT and their limitations.

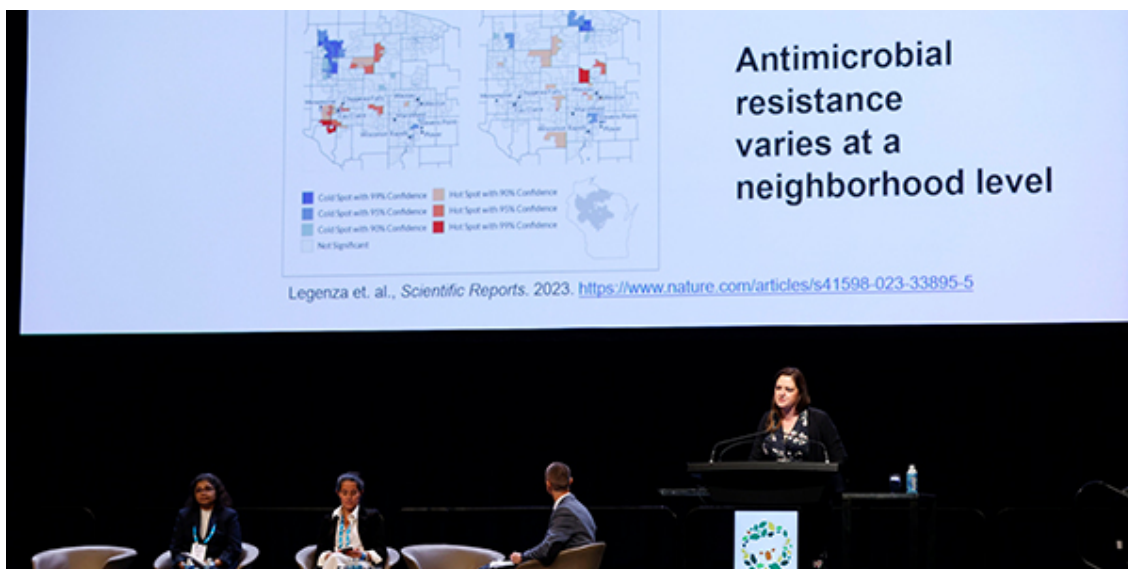
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## Practice through the Metaverse

Virtual 3D spaces have been described as a transformative force with far reaching implications. This technology is already being used for virtual gyms and education, and has recently been introduced into pharmacy practice.

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## Opportunities for antimicrobial stewardship

Timely and accessible provision of antimicrobial stewardship is critical in almost every healthcare sector. Strategies to increase antimicrobial stewardship and roles for pharmacists irrespective of setting and country income status were discussed at the FIP congress.

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## Sustainable access to medicines

How digital technologies are supporting sustainable and transparent access to medicines, tackling shortages, was the topic discussed by speakers from the Netherlands and Taiwan China at a FIP congress session.

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## Pharmacist influencers in public health

How can pharmacists demonstrate their public health roles as influencers within their scope of practice and self-care? A session at the FIP congress in Brisbane, Australia, discussed pharmacists' commitment to patient-centred care for a sustainable future through interprofessional collaboration and patient engagement, with examples from Brazil and the USA.

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## Introducing a conscientious objection decision-making framework

A new framework for navigating conscientious objection in health care was presented at FIP's 81st World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical

Sciences during a session dedicated to professional ethics.

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## Increased remuneration benefits patients

The far-reaching implications of remuneration of community pharmacy services were presented at the FIP congress. Speakers discussed challenges and suggested potential solutions.

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The *International Pharmacy Journal* is the official journal of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). Subscription is a benefit for all members of FIP. The *IPJ* reports on pharmacy matters affecting the global community or specific regions or countries, offering in-depth coverage, summaries and unique content.