

2020 Annual Report of the Regional Pharmaceutical Forums to the FIP Council

**Forum name:** Pharmaceutical Forum of the Americas (PFA)

# Executive committee members (position, name, country):

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Name | Country |
| **President** | **Dr. Eduardo Savio**  **(2019-2021)** | **Uruguay** |
| **Vice-president** | **Dr. Magaly Rodríguez de Bittner**  **(2018-2020)** | **United States of America** |
| **Treasurer** | **Pharm. Chem. Yolanda Zapata**  **(2018-2020)** | **Ecuador** |
| **Director of**  **Pharmaceutical Education** | **Dr. William Peres**  **(2019-2021)** | **Brazil** |
| **Director of Professional**  **Practice** | **Dr. Nuria Montero**  **(2019-2021)** | **Costa Rica** |

**Secretariat (person in charge and contact details):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Position: | **Professional Secretary** |
| Name: | **Yajaira Quesada** |
| Address: | **Colegio de Farmacéuticos de Costa Rica** |
|  |  |
| Country: | **Costa Rica** |
| Telephone numbers: | **+506 88285893** |
| Email address: | **ffa@forofarmaceutico.org** |
| Website: | [**www.forofarmaceutico.org**](http://www.forofarmaceutico.org) |

**Current Member Organisations (name of organisations, country)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Name of Organisation | Country | Number of  Members |
| **1** | Confederación Farmacéutica Argentina | Argentina | 20.000 |
| **2** | Conselho Federal de Farmácia do Brasil | Brazil | 144.000 |
| **3** | Sociedad Boliviana de Ciencias Farmacéuticas | Bolivia | 280 |
| **4** | Colegio Nacional de Químicos Farmacéuticos de Colombia | Colombia | 200 |
| **5** | Colegio de Farmacéuticos de Costa Rica | Costa Rica | 937 |
| **6** | Colegio de Químicos, Bioquímicos y Farmacéuticos de Pichincha | Ecuador | 240 |
| **7** | Colegio Nacional de Farmacéuticos de Panamá | Panamá | 500 |
| **8** | Asociación de Químicos Farmacéuticos del  Paraguay | Paraguay | 600 |
| **9** | Asociación de Química y Farmacia del Uruguay | Uruguay | 789 |
| **10** | American Pharmacists Association | USA | 63.000 |
| **11** | American Society of Health-System Pharmacists | USA | 43.000 |

**Main activities of the Forum between June 2019 and May 2020:**

1) Two general assemblies were held: ordinary and extraordinary. Held on August 29, 2019 in Montevideo, Uruguay.

a) In the Ordinary General Assembly, the main approved issues were:

1. the renewal of 3 Executive Committee positions for the 2019-2021 period: president, director of pharmaceutical education and director of pharmaceutical practice;
2. the choice of ColFar as the new headquarters of the technical secretariat for 3 years (2019-2022);
3. the action plan and the budget for the period 2019-2020
4. the incorporation of two new pharmaceutical organizations: Bolivian Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences and National College of Pharmacists of Panama.
5. Two possible locations to held the next Ordinary General Assembly (Bolivia or Ecuador)

b) In the Extraordinary General Assembly a workshop was held to introduce evolution of the PFA along 20 years since its creation. On the other hand, it was also addressed both FIP proposals to restructure regional forums towards ONE FIP, as well as the option preferred by our forum.

2) Participation of the President and the Professional Secretary during the FIP Congress 2019 (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 22 nd to 26 th September) in the following events:

a) Council meeting

b) Forums meeting

c) Extraordinary General Meeting which ~~wich~~ was celebrated on September 25, 2019~~:~~ the agenda of this Assembly has three points:

c.1) Recount of the main events related to the FFA in its 20 year of existence.

c.2) Background of the situation of regional pharmaceutical forums.

c.3) Proposals made by the FIP for the restructuring of the regional pharmaceutical forums.

3) ~~Three~~ Two grants of US$ 2.500 each were approved to partially support following projects in the 2019-2020 period:

a) Inclusive health education for pharmacists and deaf people (Costa Rica). Start date: July 1, ~~2020~~ 2019.

b) Good practice for dispensing high demanded antibiotics in pharmacies in the province of Córdoba (Argentina). Start date: February 1, 2020.

c) Approval of the final report of the project Pharmaceutical activity in the prison services of Argentina (2018-2019).

4) The selection and nomination of a list of postulants to FIP Congress Travel Scholarship to Seville, Spain (28th February 2020).

a) The applicants' assessment instrument was revised and readapted.

b) 20 applications were received and evaluated.

5) A call for projects between member organizations to be partially supported by the PFA was open until 31st March 2020. Six projects were received and, preselecting 3 of them. ~~In order~~ To introduce minor or major changes in order to be eventually ~~approved~~ approve. This is still an ongoing process.

6) An SOP to guide the elaboration of the procedures that are required for the Forum.

7) Seven webinars were held, according to the following list:

a- *“Good medicine distribution practice”* (in Spanish) presented by Dr Francisco Javier Eguiguren (Ecuador)*.* Broadcasted on 19**th** June 2019 by GoToWebinar. 322 participants.

b- Webinar “*Vaccination services from the community pharmacy*” (in Spanish) presented by Pharm, D; BCPS, CDE Francisco Javier Jiménez (Puerto Rico). Broadcasted on 21th August 2019 by GoToWebinar.160 participants.

c- Webinar *“Regulation and registration for the commercialization of biosimilar medicines according to the WHO”* (in Spanish) presented by Dr Renato Murillo (Costa Rica). Broadcasted on 30th October 2019 by GoToWebinar.137 participants.

d- Webinar “Antimicrobial optimization program and the essential role of the *pharmacist”* (in Spanish) presented by Dr José Pablo Díaz Madriz (Costa Rica). Broadcasted on 20th November 2019 by GoToWebinar 234 participants.

e- Webinar “*What is the contribution of the healthcare pharmacist in the COVID-19 pandemic?”* (in Spanish) presented by Dr Sofía Segura Cano (Costa Rica). Broadcasted on 15th April 2020 by GoToWebinar.297 participants.

f- Webinar “*Purified water for pharmaceutical use according to WHO”* (in Spanish) presented by Dr Francisco Javier Eguiguren (Ecuador). Broadcasted on 22nd April 2020 by GoToWebinar.120 participants.

g- Webinar “*Communicate about the covid-19 from the community pharmacy. Crisis communication”* (in Spanish) presented by Dr Alejandra Fernández Jiménez (Costa Rica). Broadcasted on 29th April 2020 by GoToWebinar.137 participants.

8) Regular meetings of the Executive Committee (18 virtual meetings and 2 face-to-face meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay).

9) Edition of ten issues of the e-Newsletter. One bulletin was produced per month from August 2019 to May 2020. <http://www.forofarmaceutico.org/boletines/>

10) Our PFA’s website has been reformulated and updated in this period website: <http://www.forofarmaceutico.org>

11) Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Foro-Farmac%C3%A9utico-de-las-Am%C3%A9ricas-128231457332611/?ref=bookmarks> (has 7312 followers).

12) Our PFA You Tube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaKA0CqV9eAspJIu84UQ1aQ?view_as=subscriber> (has 211 subscribers).

13) The Ordinary General Assembly planned for August 5, 2020 in Cochabamba (Bolivia) was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new date has still not been approved.

# Highlights of events in the region between June 2019 and May 2020 where the Forum was involved:

1) II Pharmaceutical Chemical Congress, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, 30 and 31 August of 2019. The following activities were carried out: symposium of the Pharmaceutical Forum of the Americas, FIP clinical biology section symposium, VI National Congress of Pharmaceutical Sciences, XIII Academic Workshop of the Hospital Pharmacy Specialization Diploma. Sustituir la coma por un punto

2) In the framework of this congress, the PFA also organized the “~~Information and Communication Technologies Symposium” services~~ symposium “Information and communication technologies as a means of developing pharmaceutical services”. El nombre está incompleto (Simposio Tecnologías de información y comunicación como medio de desarrollo de los servicios farmacéuticos)

3) Participation in the 44th International Congress on the History of Pharmacy ~~(44th International Congress for the History of Pharmacy)~~ held in Washington D.C., from 5 to 8 September 2019, with the presentation of the poster: Pharmaceutical Forum of the Americas (PFA): Articulating efforts to improve pharmacy practice and pharmacy education in the region of the Americas.

4) At the Congress of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) held in Las Vegas, United States, from December 8 to 10, 2019, Dr. Cristina Fernández Barrantes presented in the poster format, the technical document: The pharmacist in the prevention, detection and control of arboviruses from the pharmacy: dengue, zika, chikungunya and yellow fever, developed by her as part of the project: Infectious diseases transmitted by the Aedes aegypti mosquito, dengue, chikungunya and zika , a challenge for health systems. Supporting pharmacists to contribute to improving public health in the population of the Americas, implemented by the Forum and its member national pharmaceutical organizations for three years (2016-2018).

**Key collaboration with other stakeholders of the region (including the WHO Regional Office and other organisations)**

- Participation in the working groups of the Pan American Conference on Pharmaceutical Education: Pharmaceutical services, interprofessional education and collaborative practices; competencies and basic study plan.

- Participation in the formulation and execution of the project: Incorporation of the competences related to pharmaceutical services in primary health care in the academic training and continuing education programs of pharmacists in the Americas, proposed by the pharmaceutical services working group.

**Current projects:**

* Collaboration in the in the participation as exhibitors of the members of the Executive Committee of the IV International Congress of Biochemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences to be held in November 2020 in Quito, Ecuador
* Publication of a technical document: “The pharmacist in the immunization services from the pharmacy”.
* Publication of the final reports of projects executed with the support of competitive funds granted by the FFA in the period 2016-2020.
* Issuance of a virtual self-learning course with tutoring: Formulation and execution of pharmaceutical intervention projects.
* Preparation of a technical document: Bacterial resistance and activities carried out by the pharmacist for the optimization of antimicrobials in the Americas.

**Main challenges**

- Establishing strategical alliances with other pharmaceutical organizations in the region to develop activities of mutual interest.

- Raising fund to enable the support of new projects in the region.

- Increase the number of national organizations which are members of the PFA.

- To participate/contribute in the process of drafting and approval of the new "FIP Strategic Plan 2030" and to define the Regional Forums role and FIP's perspective to our organization.