



# IFAPP BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS



This document describes IFAPP's benefits for its membership and all activities in which members can participate. There is a variety of non-material benefits but also material advantages, such as discounts for training courses. There are ample opportunities for members to contribute in the IFAPP Working Groups or advance their careers otherwise and help IFAPP to develop a Professional Identity.

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## Introduction/Rationale

**In recent months it has become clear to the IFAPP Board of Officers that IFAPP's activities and its benefits have to become more transparent. This is why this document is provided.**

IFAPP ([ifapp.org](http://ifapp.org)), domiciled in The Netherlands, is a global non-profit organisation run by volunteers who are active in IFAPP's National Member Associations (NMAs) or are Individual Affiliates (IAs). IFAPP currently comprises 24 NMAs and 30 IAs worldwide. IAs are mostly individual members from countries where no established national association of Pharmaceutical Medicine or a related society exists.

However, IFAPP also has some IAs who have opted to be both a member of an NMA and an IA. Members of an IFAPP NMA and IFAPP IAs profit from certain benefits either via IFAPP itself, via its spin-off, the IFAPP Academy ([ifappacademy.org](http://ifappacademy.org)) domiciled in the USA, or via IFAPP's collaboration with international organisations.

**IFAPP's benefits for its membership are divided into three categories:**

1. Value of collaborating with International Organisations
2. General Benefits
3. Specific Benefits



# IFAPP BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

## 1 Value of Collaborating with International Organisations

IFAPP is respected on a global level and one of its values is that Pharmaceutical Medicine matters can be addressed at an international level to Medicines Regulatory Agencies, international bodies such as the Council for International Organizations of Medical Science (CIOMS) or the World Medical Association (WMA), the Medical Affairs Professional Society (MAPS), and others.

IFAPP has been an official partner of the World Medical Association (WMA) since 2017 and thus is an ad hoc consultant organisation for Medicines Development and Ethics in Clinical Research. IFAPP's Ethics WG has, for example, provided input to the latest draft update of the Declaration of Helsinki (2013). An IFAPP/IFAPP Academy/WMA online course "Fundamentals of Medicines Development and Clinical Research" is currently in development.

An Officer of IFAPP's Board of Directors is a member of the CIOMS Executive Committee (2020-2022). Currently, IFAPP and CIOMS are developing a new Working Group on "Guidelines in Education and Training in Clinical Research and Medicines Development" in order to expand the international visibility and awareness of IFAPP and IFAPP Academy with the education arena of medicines development.

In 2019 IFAPP and IFAPP Academy signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MAPS in order to collaborate in Medical Affairs matters. There will also be a joint training course "Introduction to Medical Affairs in Medicines Development" which will start in September 2020. MAPS has about 3000 members.

IFAPP is in discussions with the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom (FPM) with regard to the development of a career path in Pharmaceutical Medicine (see 3.2) and the development of a professional identity of professionals working in Medicines Development. Delegates from FPM, for example FPM's President, contributed to develop and finalise the Global Fellow in Medicines Development (see 3.4).



# IFAPP BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

IFAPP runs truly multi-national Working Groups with visible outcomes (e.g. training curricula, publications, submissions to international bodies). The WGs are presented on the IFAPP website (ifapp.org). They are the WGs in Certification, Communication, Education and Competencies, Ethics and Professionalism and External Affairs. Each individual member of an NMA and all IAs can participate in one or several WGs and advance their careers by, for example, contributing to papers published in renowned journals (see IFAPP website, ifapp.org, Publications) In past years IFAPP organised several conferences in collaboration with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Drug Information Association (DIA).

In addition to the benefits of working with renowned international organisations IFAPP offers general and specific benefits to its NMAs and IAs which are described as follows.

## 2 General Benefits for IFAPP members

- Being able to participate in its governance, i.e. to become elected into the Board of Officers,
- Joining, leading or creating WGs aimed to advance Pharmaceutical Medicine as a discipline (existing WGs as per IFAPP website are those on Certification, Communication, Education and Competencies, Ethics and Professionalism, and External Affairs as well as the Council of Past Presidents),
- Contributing to IFAPP's bi-annual International Conference of Pharmaceutical Medicine (ICPM) as a speaker or a session chair or helping in the organisational committee,
- Voting at the General Assembly (delegates from NMAs and IAs),
- Attending ICPMs at a reduced rate.



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## 3 Specific Benefits

IFAPP and IFAPP Academy have identified the need for Professional Certification and for establishing a career path in Pharmaceutical Medicine and have started a stepwise approach to achieve these goals. All IFAPP members (NMAs and IAs) can benefit from these accomplishments.

### *3.1 Step 1: Value of Professional Certification*

In a first step Professional Certification was identified as being invaluable for the professional development of individual professionals involved in Medicines Development as.

- Well-informed professionals educated and trained with core competencies will result in the development of better medicines,
- It is expected that there will be a higher level of public recognition of competence and professionalism among individuals working in Medicines Development,
- It is assumed that Certified Professionals will develop a sense of purpose and a professional identity.

### *3.2 Step 2: Establishing a Career Path in Pharmaceutical Medicine*

In a second step options for a career path in Pharmaceutical Medicine were assembled, these are:

- Academic: From Bachelor to Diploma to Master and/or to PhD,
- Company based: From Associate to Chief Medical Officer,
- Professional (IFAPP): From Certification to Specialist to Global Fellow and Hero in Pharmaceutical Medicine.

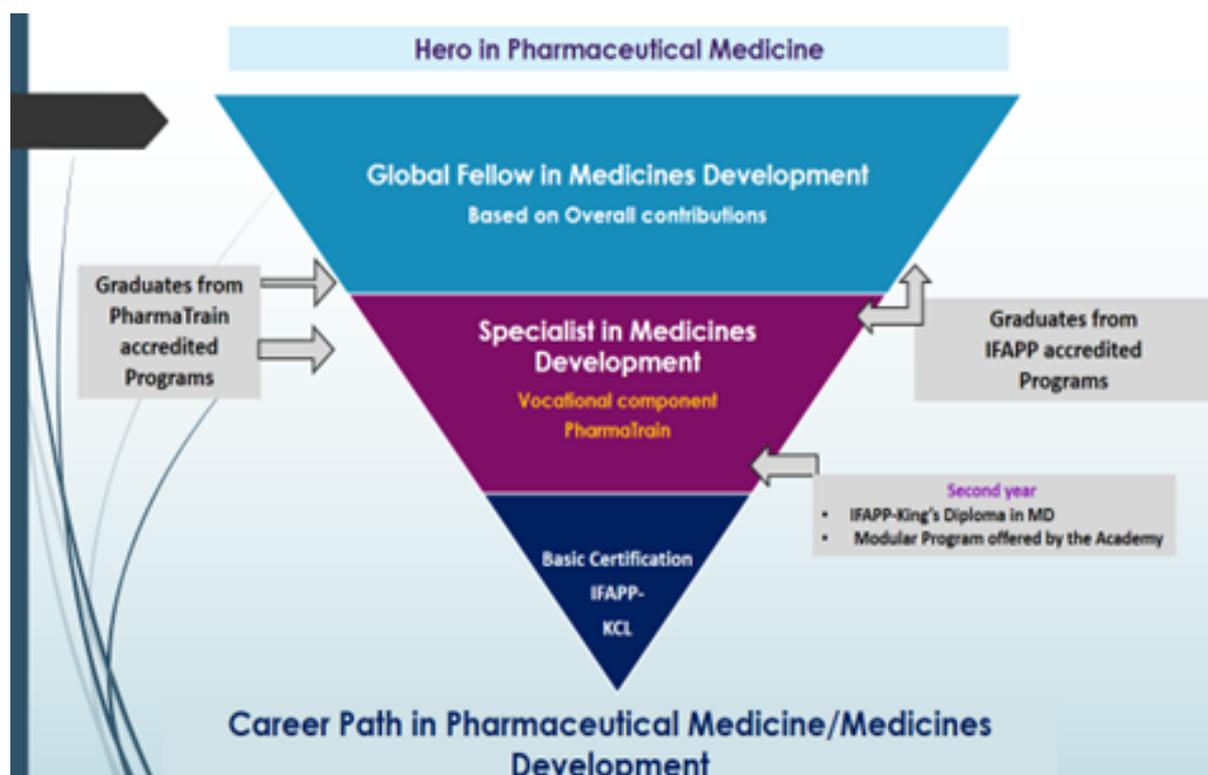


# IFAPP BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

IFAPP and IFAPP Academy have embarked on developing a competency-based professional career path in Pharmaceutical Medicine. The aim is to align and harmonize graduate educational initiatives accredited by PharmaTrain\* and IFAPP such as the basic national training courses usually offered by universities providing the title of a Specialist in Medicines Development/Pharmaceutical Medicine.

Establishing such a career path will help in forming a Professional Identity and to create the foundation for re-certification. Ultimately, the IFAPP membership will be increased and leveraged. Discussions are ongoing to align such initiatives with FPM.

**Figure 1: Schematic presentation of the IFAPP Career Path**



## 3.3 Medical Affairs Online Training

Because of its emerging relevance IFAPP developed, in a third step, an online (e-learning) course Professional Certification in Medical Affairs in Medicines Development and is aimed at meeting the cognitive aspects of the Core Competencies in Pharmaceutical Medicine/Drug Development Science (DDS) resulting in a Professional Certification, Certified Medicines Development (CMD).



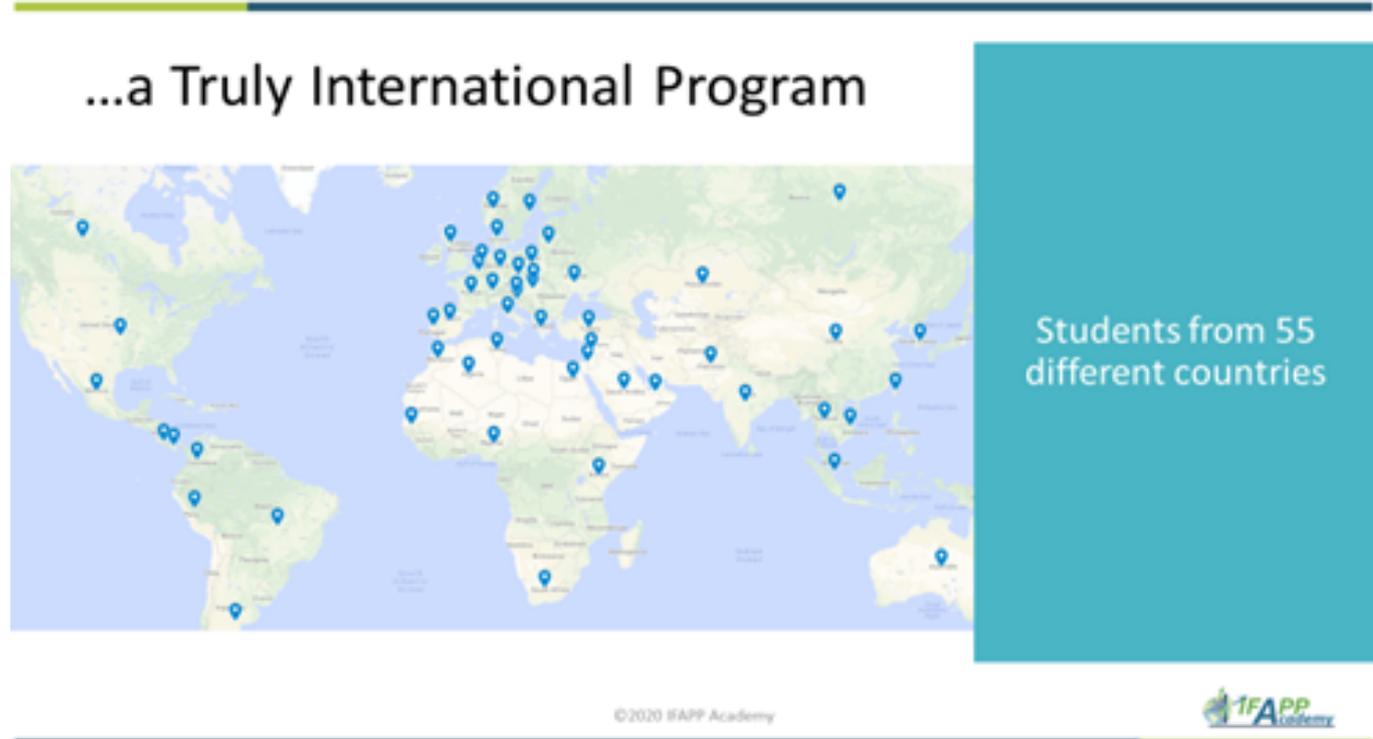
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This course is offered in strategic alliance with King's College London, UK, and Certification is jointly granted by IFAPP and King's College London for those completing the program. A new module on "Leadership in Medical Affairs" has been added for the 2020 cohort which is provided by Tufts University, Center for the Study of Drug Development (CSDD), USA.

NMA members and IAs benefit from discounted tuition fees and are able to obtain Professional Certification with specific credentials and the use of post-nominal letters.

This online training was initiated in 2016 and has been running with great success ever since. It is a truly international program.

### Figure 2: Overview of provenance/domicile of students





## IFAPP BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

The annual cohorts of the Medical Affairs training have shown a steady 50 % inter-annual mean increase in their size. By December 2020 around 400 participants from 55 countries serving in a Medical Affairs function will be part of the alumni. A Certificate of Completion signed by King's College London and a Professional Certification in Medicines Development granted by IFAPP and the IFAPP Academy is given to every student who successfully completed the 60 lectures, 24 webinars and weekly Discussion Forums offered in a 36-week period. Suggested readings as well as comprehensive assessments are also part of the experience with highly interactive communication with the Teaching Faculty. Upon graduation students are entitled to the use of postnominal letters (CMD) after their individual professional and/or academic degree.

### 3.3.1 Tuition Fees

The current base course fee for non-members of IFAPP for this course is \$ 8,600 – \$ 9,600. The fee of \$ 9,600 is for corporate sponsors, i.e. for a student whose fee is paid by a pharmaceutical company. Companies interested in sponsoring employees to attend the Medical Affairs training course can contact the IFAPP Academy at [admin@ifappacademy.org](mailto:admin@ifappacademy.org) for more information on group pricing.

The fee of \$ 8,600 is for students who pay themselves and do not need financial assistance.

IFAPP NMA members and IAs from high income countries such as Switzerland, Germany and France pay a special course fee of \$ 6,600. However, they also benefit from a 10% discount for this course which results in a final amount of \$ 5,940. This fee is only available to non-corporate sponsored students and there is a cap of five (5) students maximum for each NMA, and the NMA must be compliant with IFAPP membership fees.

Based on the country's gross domestic product (GDP) the amount of \$ 5,940 may still vary and applicants are requested to contact the IFAPP Academy at [admin@ifappacademy.org](mailto:admin@ifappacademy.org) to learn about their final fee.



## IFAPP BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

IFAPP Academy also offers partial scholarships to students who are self-paying and who require financial assistance to attend the training. This also applies to employees of Medicines Regulatory Agencies and to students belonging to NMAs or who are IAs. To be considered for a partial scholarship, applicant students must complete a specific section in the application form. In addition, IFAPP Academy offers two fully paid scholarships per course. Applications are to be done via the IFAPP Academy website.

### *3.4 Global Fellow in Medicines Development (GFMD)*

In a fourth step in the process of creating a career path in Pharmaceutical Medicine and a professional identity IFAPP designed a Professional Certification for senior and experienced members, the Global Fellow in Medicines Development as proof of professional and entrustable competence.

A Working Group consisting of IFAPP board members and colleagues from the FPM developed a concept based on a specific catalogue grading achievements and experience in a cumulative point system and identified the first 115 GFMDs.

#### **The expected role of the GFMD is to**

- Confirm the IFAPP career path and to support IFAPP by being advocates for Pharmaceutical Medicine as a profession,
- Engage and interact with key stakeholders,
- Participate at future IFAPP Academy Value Added Programs and Services,
- Help in the identification of additional candidates for the Award,
- Become members of IFAPP and/or of NMAs and/or of FPM.

A public Award Ceremony had been planned to celebrate the first 115 GFMDs' nomination at the ICPM 2020 in Rome in March which, because of the congress's cancellation due to COVID-19, will now take place as an online event on 16 July 2020. A call for a second cohort of Global Fellowship candidates will be initiated soon.



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## 3.5 Heroes in Pharmaceutical Medicine

In 2017 the IFAPP Board decided to establish the title of "Hero in Pharmaceutical Medicine".

### Criteria for nomination:

- A person who devoted a significant time of her/his professional life (at least 20 years) enabling the recognition of Pharmaceutical Medicine as a distinct professional specialty at an international and/or national level,
- A person who supported IFAPP and the concept of Pharmaceutical Medicine within her/his own National Association in the last 20 years,
- A person who has the title of IFAPP Past-President (not mandatory).

The Council of Past-Presidents has been given the task to identify candidates for this award in addition to nominations by NMAs who are then endorsed by the IFAPP Board of Officers. Usually, these awards are given during the closing ceremony of an ICPM but on some occasions the award can be given at a different event.

## 3.6 Further Training

Further Pharmaceutical Medicine training certified by IFAPP is in development. For example, two additional programs will be launched in autumn 2020 in collaboration with Tufts CSDD and MAPS. Other areas for collaboration with WMA, CIOMS and FPM are under consideration to continue this success story. First discussions about webinars for members of NMAs and IAs have been initiated. NMAs might wish to contribute with their own successful webinars which could be exchanged with other or all NMAs.

As mentioned above (see 1) IFAPP, in collaboration with the WMA, is developing an online course of "Fundamentals of Medicines Development and Clinical Research" and is involved with CIOMS in a new working group "Guidelines in Education and Training in Clinical Research and Medicines Development". The IFAPP Academy is focused to bring value and professional identity by ensuring that Pharmaceutical Medicine/Medicines Development is driven by competent biomedical professionals willing to leverage health all over the world.



# IFAPP BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

## 4 Summary and Conclusion

Many activities are going on in the IFAPP community and IFAPP members profit from general and specific material and non-material benefits. Individuals from the NMAs and IAs are urged to become members of an IFAPP WG and contribute actively. The various WGs are waiting to welcome new colleagues with fresh and innovative ideas in order to further shape and develop IFAPP for the benefits and safety of the patients.



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