Education and Certification WG
Concept Revision 1 2026

Introduction

The Education and Certification Working Group (ECWG) will work on the delivery of educational training opportunities for professionals within the field of Pharmaceutical Medicine/Medicines Development Sciences (PM/MDS). A second goal is to co-develop the network of course providers with the PharmaTrain Federation (https://www.pharmatrain.eu) and to foster different educational formats and degrees in Pharmaceutical Medicine.

The scope of the ECWG is based on IFAPP's overall strategy and mission to promote PM/MDS with regard to the discovery, development, research and use of medicines by promoting competence and enhancing the knowledge, expertise and skills of pharmaceutical physicians and other health care professionals involved in the development of medicinal products.

One of the cornerstones of the ECWG will be, in co-operation with the Young Professionals Working Group (YPWG), to raise awareness in young people at the beginning of their careers, and to inform them of the disciplines and post-graduate education possibilities in the field of PM/MDS.

Basis/Background

The training programmes are based on the current PharmaTrain Syllabus and will be updated in line with future PharmaTrain Syllabus versions (https://www.pharmatrain.eu/pharmatrain-syllabus).

The content of the concept paper is based on *the IFAPP Constitution, Article 2:*

'by enhancing the knowledge, expertise and skills of pharmaceutical physicians and other professionals involved in all scientific disciplines involved in the discovery, development, processing and usage of medicines as well as experimental and clinical research'
- *'to foster the development of undergraduate and postgraduate education as well as continuing professional development programs in pharmaceutical medicine and medicines development;'*
- *'to assist National Member Associations in developing such programs'*
- *'to disseminate information on developments in Pharmaceutical Medicine and Medicines Development.*

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IFAPP Education and Certification Programme

The IFAPP education and certification programme comprises three cornerstones:

1 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Members from National Member Associations (NMAs) and Individual Affiliates (IAs) are encouraged to systematically and continuously gain and update their knowledge and expertise, independent of their educational background and career level. IFAPP aims at providing the global framework for continuous learning and exchange of experience for and from within its membership.

1a Short Courses in PM/MDS and Related Disciplines

Such post-graduate education and training courses, covering any topic(s) of the PharmaTrain Syllabus or beyond, can be provided and organised by NMAs or professional training providers. The delivery of these courses as well as their financial and technical management are expected to be well-established. The length of a course is at the discretion of the organiser. National and international education and training courses, either set up ad hoc or as continuously updated courses and provided in English, will be published under a specific icon on the IFAPP website and announced in IFAPP TODAY. ECWG facilitates NMAs's training courses on a global basis.

1b IFAPP Webinars

Ad hoc webinars will be provided to ensure that IFAPP members are aware of fast evolving developments such as options and challenges of Real World Evidence (RWE) data, Modelling and Simulation, Artificial Intelligence, licensing and monitoring developments, advanced therapies, new developments in Health Technology Assessment (HTA), patient involvement and ethics in clinical trials, also in conflict regions. Regulatory obligations, current health topics like, for example, acute or multi-resistant infections, etc. should also be addressed. Experts from all involved stakeholder groups (academia and scientific societies, governmental bodies, ethics committees, patient organisations, life science companies, service providers etc.) will be involved to present the newest developments and provide opportunities for exchange of experience and questions.

The webinars will be conducted with the intention to regularly update the members' knowledge. Webinars addressed to young professionals will be provided in collaboration with/by the YPWG.

The IFAPP CPD webinars will all be presented and promoted in IFAPP TODAY and on the IFAPP homepage under "Events" with the aim to enable IFAPP members to select CPD topics from a broad, global scope of interesting offerings on different topics.

2 Development and Recognition of Diploma, Master and Certificate Courses in PM/PMDS

IFAPP is supporting existing and newly developed post-graduate courses that enable the trainees to receive a certificate, diploma or master in PM/MDS for physicians and other academic disciplines involved in the development of new medicines or medical devices as well as in related disciplines if they are offered by a NMA or a university/training organisation in a NMA and if they adhere to the PharmaTrain standards for syllabus and their quality criteria. Such course standards were jointly developed by PharmaTrain and IFAPP in the context of a project of the former public-private partnership IMI (Innovative Medicines Initiative) which has since been turned into the Innovative Health Initiative (https://www.ihi.europa.eu).

Since 2014 course providers can apply for a PharmaTrain Federation assessment of their course(s) leading to the international recognition of "PharmaTrain Centre of Excellence", "PharmaTrain Centre" or "PharmaTrain Course", and thus become a member of the global network of course providers committed to continuously increasing quality and harmonisation of education in PM/MDS and related disciplines. IFAPP is supporting such course providers in achieving the respective recognition and by promoting their courses on the IFAPP website and in IFAPP TODAY.

IFAPP tries to negotiate fee reductions for IFAPP members (NMA members and Individual Affiliates), successful examples are:

- GPMed, Austrian Society for Pharmaceutical Medicine: Certificate/Advanced Certificate Course in Medical Affairs and Pharmaceutical Medicine (1)
- University of Basel/ECPM Diploma Course in Pharmaceutical Medicine/Medicines Development Sciences (2)
- GMDP Academy, Certification in Medicines Development (3)

Global Fellowship Awards in Pharmaceutical Medicine

IFAPP will offer awards such as Scientific Leadership in Pharmaceutical Medicine, Scientific Excellence in Pharmaceutical Medicine, and Rising Star in Pharmaceutical Medicine to those colleagues who already have experience in Pharmaceutical Medicine and who can demonstrate their expertise in relation to the requirements set out by IFAPP. A call for applications is sent out on a yearly basis.

Summary

To summarise**,** training and education in PM/MDS cover a competency-based, work-centred education and training in all relevant areas. Competency and continuing professional development are key for working in a rapidly changing and challenging environment. The participation in the above listed courses, webinars and certification programmes will improve knowledge and competencies. The different options should be used in a strategic way by combining national and international training offers.

In this regard IFAPP and the Global Forum (FPM Global) of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine of the Royal Colleges of the United Kingdom (FPM) agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding.

(1) https://www.gpmed.at/en/introduction-to-medical-affairs-and-pharmaceutical-medicine/
(2) https://ecpm.unibas.ch/flagship-course
(3) https://gmdpacademy.org/certification-programs/certification-in-medicines-development/ (3)