

DECLARATION OF THE AMERICAS ON THE PROFESSION OF PHARMACY AND ITS IMPACT ON HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS



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BACKGROUND

- I. The profession of pharmacy must evolve in accordance to the important changes in the field, such as the industrial manufacture of medicines and pharmaceutical products, the need for the provision of new services and the corresponding regulatory adaptations.*
- II. Since the last decade of the 20th century, pharmacists in the Americas have shown concern for increasing the health standards of the populations of their respective countries, offering their active participation in healthcare systems and in all the links of the chain that goes from the medicine to the patient, that is to say, from the research and development, production, quality assurance and distribution (storage and transport) of medicines to their correct dispensing, fostering their rational and adequate use; and from their selection to the monitoring of their results in the patient.*
- III. The education and professional performance of pharmacists in the countries of this continent, as well as their impact on healthcare systems, are still uneven. For this reason, there is a need for a stronger and increased participation of pharmacists, whose knowledge and skills have demonstrated an added value in front of the challenges of our society in the field of healthcare and others, such as health legislation (with a scientific-technical base and a social focus), universal access to healthcare, availability of pharmaceutical services, and care and access to medicines of guaranteed therapeutic efficacy.*
- IV. The role of the pharmacist in healthcare systems, by promoting the rational use of medicines and health in general through Good Pharmacy Practice and Pharmaceutical Care, has been officially recognized and promoted by the World Health Organization (resolution WHA47.12 and the reports from the Consultations on the Role of the Pharmacist in Healthcare Systems held in New Delhi, Tokyo, Vancouver and The Hague in 1988, 1993, 1997 and 1998, respectively) and the International Pharmaceutical Federation (Tokyo Declaration of 1993 on Standards for quality of pharmacy services - FIP Guidelines for Good Pharmacy Practice and revised version FIP/WHO GPP of 1997).*
- V. The importance of a true multidisciplinary conformation of the healthcare team has been recognized and reflected in the DECLARATION OF LA PAZ by the Presidents of the healthcare professionals' organizations of America (Latin-*

American Medical Confederation, Latin-American Dental Federation and the Pan-American Pharmaceutical Federation) in June 1998.

- VI. Recognizing the common aspects of the profession amongst the countries in our region and the synergy we wish to achieve through the relationship between our nations, we have identified the convenience and the need for cooperation among our professional organizations.*

CONSIDERATIONS

- I. The increase of the life expectancy and of the quality of life of the population, due to the advancement of the health sciences, and particularly the medical and pharmaceutical sciences, has led to a higher demand for health services and a larger consumption of medicines, whose costs are causing an important impact on the health expenditure in our countries. This new scenario requires the implementation of urgent and adequate pharmacoeconomic strategies both by institutions and nations, oriented by professional pharmaceutical criteria.*
- II. The population of our countries is ageing systematically and gradually, which leads to a dependence on a sustained consumption of medicines in order to prevent and/or manage chronic and degenerative diseases and achieve a better quality of life.*
- III. Rationalizing the use of the medicines implies a better utilization of the economic resources allocated to health. For this reason, it is indispensable to reinforce the participation of pharmacists in healthcare teams in our countries, so that they can provide pharmacotherapeutic information and give an adequate orientation on the correct use of medicines to patients and care-givers, for the benefit of public health.*
- IV. Pharmacists, who are internationally recognized as experts in medicines, should always invest their knowledge in satisfying the needs of the patient in that field, within a framework of professional ethics.*
- V. The volume of information about medicines that is continually generated requires up-to-date and competent pharmacists who can pour that information into services to patients through the implementation of Pharmaceutical Care.*

OBJECTIVES

- I. To establish, apply and update pharmacotherapeutic quality criteria and to raise the quality standards of pharmaceutical services, for the sake of improving the health of the population of the countries in the region.*
- II. To achieve the active and effective participation of the pharmacist in the healthcare team and in health-related policy-making, in order to contribute to the highest possible level of well-being and safety for the patient.*
- III. To promote and increase the implementation of Pharmaceutical Care as a means to achieve the rational use of medicines and improve the quality of life of the patient.*

DECLARATION

The pharmacists of the Americas declare their commitment to actively participate in the fortification of healthcare systems, contributing with their knowledge to the achievement of the universal right to health, guaranteed by the Constitution of each country.

In this context, it is indispensable to ensure the active participation of pharmacists in healthcare teams and in health-related policy-making in all countries, by contributing with their technical and scientific knowledge, and with the responsibility of rationalising the use of medicines as an instrument to foster their adequate utilization and thus making an efficient use of the resources allocated to health.

The undersigned Federations (FEPAFAR, FFCC and FEFAS), formed by the most representative national pharmaceutical organizations of each country in the region, and therefore bringing together pharmacists in the Americas, hereby declare their commitment:

- a. To offer the necessary support, through the provision of training courses and the elaboration of guidelines and standards for the education and professional practice of pharmacists.*
- b. To foster the development of the necessary skills and to orient the application of pharmacists' knowledge, so that our profession is well prepared to offer society the best healthcare possible.*
- c. To propose, together with the other healthcare professions, the necessary strategies to achieve the highest standards of quality in public health, taking as a reference the initiatives of international organizations and considering the particular conditions of our countries.*
- d. To promote the harmonization of curricula in pharmacy education and the observation of the minimum curriculum standards, elevating the level of knowledge and encouraging research in all fields of pharmacy practice and the advancement of the Pharmaceutical Sciences, in order to better serve the cause of improving the health of the population. Furthermore, to promote academic and scientific postgraduate education, professional education and life-long learning, as well as the certification and re-certification of professional*

licenses in accordance with the developments in pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences, as well as social and healthcare requirements.

To achieve these goals, we exhort the governments of our countries to, based on international health recommendations by the World Health Organization, the Pan-American Health Organization and the International Pharmaceutical Federation, guarantee to society the participation of pharmacists in the following fields, that, amongst others, are essential and of great impact in National Health Systems:

1. COMMUNITY PHARMACY
2. HOSPITAL PHARMACY
3. INDUSTRIAL PHARMACY
4. HEALTH REGULATIONS AND PHARMACEUTICAL POLICIES
5. RESEARCH

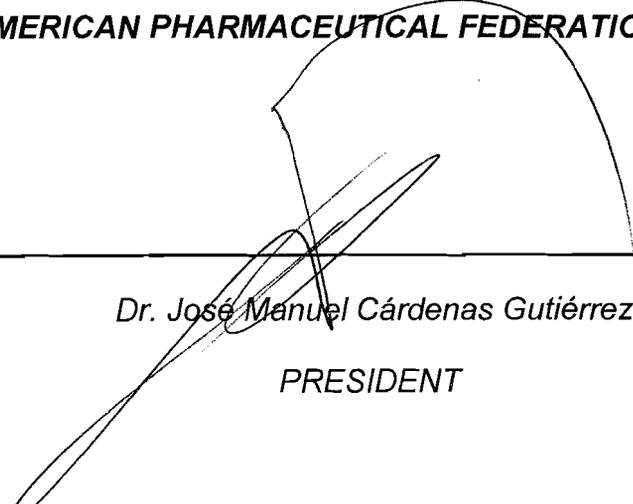
(The impact on healthcare of each of these fields is defined in Annex 1)

We ratify, before the society of the entire continent, our commitment to offer the necessary support to improve health and the universal access to medicines and pharmaceutical services in our countries.

DECLARATION APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PAN-AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL FEDERATION, IN THE CITY OF PANAMA, PANAMA, ON NOVEMBER 26TH 2007; REVISED AND APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PHARMACEUTICAL FEDERATION ALSO IN THE CITY OF PANAMA, ON NOVEMBER 27TH 2007, AND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL FEDERATION IN THE CITY OF ASUNCIÓN, PARAGUAY, ON MARCH 29TH 2008 AND AT THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL FORUM OF THE AMERICAS, ALSO IN THE CITY OF ASUNCIÓN, ON MARCH 28TH 2008, AND ALSO REVISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL FEDERATION.

The cooperation among the undersigned Federations is initially supported by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), the Pharmaceutical Forum of the Americas, the Iberian-Latin American Academy of Pharmacy, the General Council of Official Pharmaceutical Societies of Spain and the Organization of Iberian-Latin-American Pharmacists (OFIL), and will subsequently be open for further endorsements and support, once signed by the Presidents of these institutions.

PAN-AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL FEDERATION (FEPAFAR)



Dr. José Manuel Cárdenas Gutiérrez

PRESIDENT

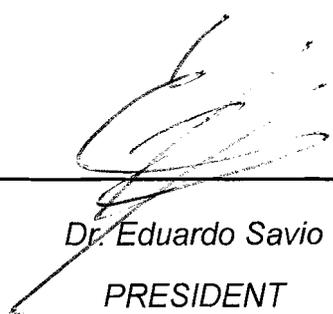
CENTRAL-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PHARMACEUTICAL FEDERATION (FFCC)



Dr. Telva Núñez de Córdoba

PRESIDENT

SOUTH-AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL FEDERATION (FEFAS)



Dr. Eduardo Savio

PRESIDENT

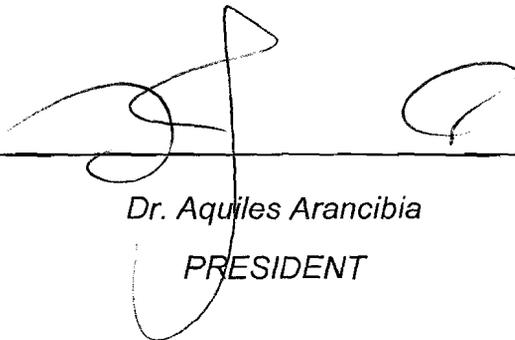
WITH THE INITIAL SUPPORT FROM:

INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL FEDERATION (FIP)

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Dr. Kamal Midha
PRESIDENT

PHARMACEUTICAL FORUM OF THE AMERICAS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aquiles Arancibia', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Aquiles Arancibia
PRESIDENT

CONSEJO GENERAL DE COLEGIOS OFICIALES DE FARMACÉUTICOS DE ESPAÑA



Dr. Pedro Capilla Martínez

PRESIDENTE

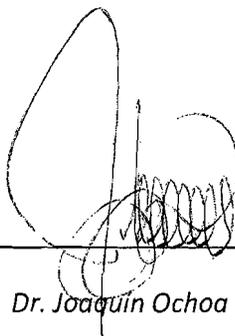
ACADEMIA IBEROAMERICANA DE FARMACIA



Dr. Alberto Ramos Cormenzana

PRESIDENTE

ORGANIZACIÓN DE FARMACEUTICOS IBERO LATINOAMERICANOS (OFIL)



Dr. Joaquín Ochoa Valle

PRESIDENTE OFIL INTERNACIONAL

ANNEX 1

COMMUNITY PHARMACY. *Pharmacists offer the professional service of Pharmaceutical Care, so that community pharmacies are recognised by the population as healthcare centres abiding to Good Pharmacy Practice, including:*

1. *Dispensing medicines.*
2. *Clinical Pharmacy.*
3. *An adequate selection of medicines.*
4. *An appropriate storage of medicines, which guarantees their quality, safety and therapeutic efficacy.*
5. *The promotion of patient compliance .*
6. *The promotion of health and health education as a part of the National Health System of our countries.*

HOSPITAL PHARMACY. *Pharmacists offer a professional service by managing medicines and healthcare, through clinical practice and delivery of Pharmaceutical Care, based on Good Pharmacy Practice, including:*

1. *The adequate selection of the necessary medicines for the hospital.*
2. *The appropriate storage of medicines, which guarantees their quality, safety and efficacy.*
3. *The effective quality assurance of the medicines used and the pharmaceutical services offered at the hospital.*
4. *The prompt and adequate delivery of medicines to patients, guaranteeing their safety and therapeutic efficacy by promoting their rational and correct use; and the provision of the necessary information on medicines to patients and the healthcare team. The pharmacist's role further includes monitoring the patient's pharmacotherapy and carrying out pharmacovigilance, according to the highest quality standards of pharmaceutical services, thus contributing to the efficient utilization of the resources of the institution.*

INDUSTRIAL PHARMACY. *Pharmacists participate in the research, development and innovation of medicines, as well as in their manufacture and quality assurance, according to Good Manufacturing Practice and the health legislation in force, guaranteeing the therapeutic efficacy of medicines and, therefore, the welfare of patients.*

HEALTH REGULATIONS AND PHARMACEUTICAL POLICIES. *Pharmacists participate in the fields of vigilance, regulation and control of medicines, medical products and other health-related products, as well as of the premises where they are produced or stored, in order to guarantee to the population that the products that are manufactured or imported into the region comply with the health regulations in force. Pharmacists also have an active role in assuring the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines, and thus preventing an illicit use of chemical substances and precursors for the manufacturing of illegal drugs in our countries.*

RESEARCH. *Pharmacists participate in the fields related to medicines and health, including their scientific, technological, economic, social, clinical and ethical aspects.*