



International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation

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IPSF Declaration on Pharmacists' role in combating AMR: Dispelling myths and increasing its awareness

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Established in 1949, IPSF is the leading international advocacy organisation for pharmacy and pharmaceutical science students and recent graduates that promotes improved public health through the provision of information, education, networking, and a range of publications and professional activities.

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IPSF DECLARATION ON PHARMACISTS' ROLE IN COMBATING AMR, DISPELLING MYTHS AND INCREASING ITS AWARENESS.

The International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) and its Member Organisations,

Recognising that Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) continues to be a global concern, due to inappropriate or excessive use of antimicrobial products, which needs to be tackled urgently,

Fully aware that AMR threatens global health as well as the effective prevention and treatment of an ever-increasing range of infections caused by fungi, bacteria, viruses, and parasites,

Alarmed by the fact that approximately 484, 000 people developed multidrug-resistant or rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis globally in 2018 and AMR is complicating the fight against HIV/AIDS and malaria, in addition to potentially leading the world into a pre-antibiotic era,

Deeply concerned by the financial burden and escalating health care costs for patients with resistant infections in comparison to the costs incurred by patients with non-resistant agents, factoring in a longer duration of illness, additional tests, complications, and use of more expensive drugs or associations of drugs,

Convinced that AMR is a global problem that can only be addressed if all stakeholders work together through an integrated approach and international collaboration, as resistant bacteria are not confined by international borders,

Acknowledging that pharmacists have a major role in combating AMR in different sectors such as Pharmaceutical Industry, Hospital Pharmacy Practice, Clinical Pharmacy Practice, Community Pharmacy Practice, Research and Development, Academia, and Policy and Advocacy, among others,

Further acknowledging that pharmacists play a vital role in practising and encouraging antimicrobial stewardship as well as the proper use of antimicrobial medication,

Believing that it is important to empower pharmacists to educate the public and other healthcare professionals on the proper use of antimicrobial medications,

Reaffirming the role of IPSF as a youth healthcare organisation that has established numerous initiatives in the past for pharmacy students and recent graduates in different areas will continue its efforts in the area of antimicrobial stewardship,

1. Emphasises the global nature of AMR and calls on sectors outside of healthcare (such as agriculture) to address this growing issue;
2. Calls on health authorities and governments to reinforce current legislation to restrict the dispensary circuits of antimicrobial medicines by implementing suitable regulations to fight off the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials:
 - i. rendering novel antimicrobial drugs and different forms of commercial associations into prescriptions drugs;
 - ii. introducing restrictions to narrow free OTC dispensing of antimicrobial drugs;



- iii. increasing inspections and penalising malpractices both in prescribing and dispensing;
3. Considers the establishment of a project grant or special fund on AMR, awarded to Member Organisations periodically, in support of Antimicrobial Stewardship projects/programs locally;
4. Commits, through its Member Organisations, to conduct public awareness campaigns at the community level, in local languages when applicable, aimed at dispelling myths on AMR and centred on the following issues and their relation to AMR:
 - i. rational use of medication;
 - ii. One Health basics;
 - iii. self-medication;
 - iv. medicine adherence;
 - v. water, sanitation and hygiene;
 - vi. substandard and falsified medicines;
5. Resolves to disseminate up-to-date scientific and professional knowledge related to AMR through a diverse set of activities and engagements, targeting various stakeholders:
 - i. collaborating with allied organisations, authorities, and professionals;
 - ii. tackling different aspects of the fight against AMR, with competitions amongst students, scientific and educational contents, and public health campaigns;
 - iii. produce sound and clear policy/position statements as well as equip members and young pharmacists with the proper tools and techniques to raise awareness, fight AMR accelerating behaviours or myths with well-framed, evidence-based, and conceivable contents;
6. Further resolves to organise Professional Development events themed on and centred around AMR to ensure IPSF members are continuously updated on AMR issues and actively engaged in the fight against AMR;
7. Endorses the need to expand the scope of pharmacy services to allow pharmacists to vaccinate patients as it has the potential to reduce the incidence of infections and thus reduce the need for antimicrobials;
8. Recommends Governments and Ministries of Health to develop and implement National Action Plans on AMR that are based on the Global Action Plan and its main strategic objectives;
9. Further recommends Governments and Ministries of Health to engage and invest in the World Health Organisation supported system GLASS (Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System), a multilateral sharing platform to inform decision-making, drive local, national, and regional action;



10. Encourages the utilisation of the AWaRe tool developed by the WHO Essential Medicines List in the fight against AMR;
11. Urges governments, health ministries, and professional societies to include AMR in the curricula of all health courses, mainly focusing on practical strategies on how to tackle AMR and that continuous professional education is provided to strengthen the competencies of health care professionals;
12. Affirms the importance of a One Health approach in combating AMR including encouraging pharmacists to specialise in Veterinary Pharmacy;
13. Calls upon authorities to include mandatory reporting of the quantity and purposes of antibiotic use in livestock, to prohibit the use of reserve antibiotics and to fully include pharmacists in the process;
14. Encourages Ministries of Health to train Herbalists and conduct AMR awareness sessions as well as train Herbalists on Antimicrobial Stewardship;
15. Emphasises the importance of interprofessional collaboration among health care professionals to ensure rational use of microbiological diagnostic techniques, rational prescribing and rational dispensing of antimicrobials;
16. Further emphasises the importance of strong National Medicines Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs) in countering the manufacture, sale and distribution of substandard and falsified medical products that have been seen to contribute to AMR;
17. Requests the pharmaceutical industry to invest more in research and development of new antimicrobial medicines, vaccines and point-of-care diagnostic tools;
18. Calls upon experts, communicators, practitioners, and media institutions to reframe AMR in order for the public to understand and support actions against drug-resistant infections through:
 - i. emphasising that it is a universal issue which could affect anyone;
 - ii. communicating in relatable terms that provide a human face of AMR;
 - iii. framing the issue as solvable and accompanying it with a clear and specific call to action;
19. Supports the use of social media by health organisations and healthcare professionals to educate the public on appropriate antimicrobial use and condemn misinformation.