

36TH ANNUAL CONGRESS OF IPSF

Claire Zerafa,
Secretary

Malta is hosting the 37th Annual Congress of the International Pharmacy Students' Federation (IPSF).

IPSF is an international students' body managed entirely by students, but is also affiliated to the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

IPSF, like FIP has its "home" in the Hague, the Netherlands. However, it has members from all over the world – such as Latin America, the United States and Canada, European countries, Russia and Africa.

IPSF has several goals, all of which it achieves admirably:

- it promotes a world-wide awareness of the problems that pharmacy as a profession is facing
- it promotes student exchanges amongst all countries which are members of the federation
- it emphasizes the necessity of patient counselling by community pharmacists, in order to promote the pharmacist as a necessary and vital member of the healthcare team.

All countries who are members of IPSF are in regular contact directly with the members of the Executive of IPSF, throughout the year. IPSF achieves this by the publication of various leaflets at regular 3-monthly intervals. In this way, all student bodies are informed of all that is going on in each individual member country. In order to achieve an even greater contact with its members, IPSF organises an annual congress.

Last year's congress was held in Vienna from the 8th to the 10th August. It was a well attended congress with 180 participating delegates from 37 different countries, among which were eight Maltese participants. The Maltese delegation



The Maltese Delegation

consisted of Miss Edith Agius, a new graduate, and co-chairperson of the reception committee that has been set up to supervise the hosting of this year's congress, Miss Claire Copperstone and Miss Claire Zerafa, respectively co-chairperson and secretary of the reception committee, both of whom are currently in their final year of their studies and Miss Angela Catania, Miss Josianne Magri Demajo, Miss Danielle Vassallo, Miss Karen Vella and Mr David Fenech who are in their third year. Miss Edith Agius and Miss Angela Catania were Malta's official delegates.

The Congress in Vienna was an event that involved both pharmacy-oriented and social activities.

General Assemblies: Here, an evaluation of the work carried out by IPSF during the past year was made. The official delegates from each country formally discussed problems, specific to their individual countries, as well as those being faced by IPSF. During the final general

assembly, there were general elections that saw the establishment of a New Executive which will remain in office till the coming congress. The new executive will be working very closely with the Reception Committee from Malta throughout this year in order to ensure that plans are being well made for the hosting of the next congress.

The Symposium: Last year's theme was "Primary and Preventive Healthcare in Modern Pharmacy". The day was divided into three presentations. After each of which there was time allotted for questions and discussions. Mr. Franz Winkler, the President of the Austrian National Pharmaceutical Association spoke about the organisational work that must be done by the pharmacist; Mr Hans Jakesz, a representative of the Austrian National Pharmacy Owners Association discussed the advisory functions of pharmacists, and finally Dr Christian Muller-Uri, a member of the pharmacy faculty in Vienna