**International liaison**

The 76th World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2016 provided another excellent opportunity to meet up with old acquaintances but also to meet new leaders of community pharmacy in their respective countries. Information and trends could be shared and most important of all, benchmarking could be done.

It is in the informal (social) sessions where invaluable information gets shared and cross-pollination takes place, which could not be obtained from the printed or social media. Community pharmacy in South Africa is not practicing in isolation but is part and parcel of, and sometimes leading, international trends. It is therefore of the utmost importance to remain part of the international pharmacy environment, understand the global burden of disease, and support changes required to move from a “sickness care model to a health model”.

The Congress ended with a closing dinner and Tango show. The 77th Congress of FIP will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 10-14 September 2017. The theme of the 77th Congress will be: “Medicine and beyond! The soul of pharmacy” The 77th Congress will focus on new ways for pharmacy to provide more than just medicine – to consider ways of extending the role of pharmacists so that they are seen as much more than simply medicine providers. It is surely an event not to be missed, and in particular, for purposes of defining the role of community pharmacists in a NHI system in South Africa.

**References:**
1. FIP Congress programme, 2016
2. FIP Webinars: Information Brochure by the Community Pharmacy Section of FIP, 2016
3. Information Brochure by the Korean Pharmaceutical Association and the Pharmaceutical Society of Korea