



## Memorandum of Understanding

### The purpose

This memorandum is designed to secure the cooperation and collaboration between the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) and the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF).

The benefit of multi-disciplinary teamwork has been recognised internationally for the management of chronic and complex conditions. Health Professionals, however, often work independently, and without an in-depth knowledge of the skills and types of care provided by other disciplines. This has the potential to result in sub-optimal care, inefficiencies and duplicated services.

Multidisciplinary collaboration between health professionals is an essential part of providing comprehensive and patient centred care. Patients have rated early referral to multidisciplinary teams as one of their highest priorities. The ongoing sustainability of collaborative models of health care will depend on professionals having clearly stated roles and objectives. A challenge that has been identified for professionals is working with providers of varying expectations and responsibility. Equally the success of teamwork will depend on the ability of participants to recognise the unique skills and perspectives of representatives from other disciplines.

IFMSA and IPSF believe that education to work as part of multi-disciplinary teams should begin during undergraduate education. The executive committee of IPSF and IFMSA support and encourage collaboration between all health care students' associations at a local, national and regional level.

Collaboration between students' associations could involve joint projects on public health and education, joint publications and combined events. Students' associations should seek to develop new and innovative ways for members to gain the skills required to undertake multi-disciplinary collaboration in the workplace.

Through teamwork undertaken during undergraduate education, the health care practitioners of the future will be better equipped to respond to the challenges of an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving global health care system.

### IFMSA

IFMSA's mission is to offer future physicians a comprehensive introduction to global health issues. Through our programming and opportunities, we develop culturally sensitive students of medicine, intent on influencing the trans-national inequalities that shape the health of our planet.

IFMSA's objectives are:

- To expose all medical students to humanitarian and global health issues, providing them with the opportunity to educate themselves and their peers;
- To facilitate partnerships between the medical student community and international organisations also concerned work on health, education and medicine;
- To give all medical students the opportunity to take part in clinical and research exchange around the world;
- To provide a network that links active medical students across the globe, including student leaders, project managers and activists, so that they can learn from and be motivated by each other;
- To provide an international framework in which medical student projects can be initiated, carried out and developed;
- To empower and train medical students to take a role in bringing about the necessary changes to improve the health of all people of the world.

## **IPSF**

IPSF is the leading international advocacy organisation for pharmacy students, promoting improved public health through provision of information, education, networking and a range of publications and professional initiatives. The specific objectives of the federation are:

1. establishing a permanent form of contact with representative organisations of pharmaceutical students;
2. promoting the exchange of ideas by international correspondence and by encouraging full dissemination of scientific and professional knowledge;
3. encouraging the formation and development of national pharmaceutical student organisations without trespassing upon their domains;
4. collecting opinions and information on the subject of pharmaceutical education and by suggesting improvements where necessary with the aim of attaining unification of pharmaceutical education;
5. encouraging member associations to organise annual international pharmaceutical students' congresses;
6. encouraging and promoting international visits and exchanges of students;
7. publishing the IPSF News Bulletin as an official organ;
8. co-operation with other international organisations on a scientific, educational and cultural plane only, the Federation being non-political;
9. representing the opinions of pharmaceutical students in discussions with professional, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

## **Agreement**

**IFMSA and IPSF agree to:**

1. Emphasise the cooperation and coordination between the two organisations. This will mainly be done through communication between IFMSA's Liaison Officer for Student Organisations and IPSF's Permanent Officer who will sign up to receive each other's newsletters.

2. Invite each other to General Assemblies of both organisations and attempt to attend them. The participation fee of the invited representatives shall be the observer fee set by each organising committee.
3. Assist the other organisation in promoting itself at the above mentioned conferences by providing participating representatives with a desk and chairs for a promotional stand in the building where the General Assembly is arranged.
4. Provide a separate section of their webpage for a specific description of the other organisation, including the official logo and a webpage link of the other organisation and the words “in collaboration with”.
5. Promote each other in regular e-newsletters and other publications.
6. Encourage regional collaboration between both organisations’ regional offices, formation of regional mailing lists for representatives of the regional offices, participation in each others’ regional events and the organisation of joint regional events and projects.
7. Communicate with each other and other International Student Organisations through the IFISO (Informal Forum of International Student Organisations) listserver (ifiso@yahogroups.com)
8. Continuously aim to promote multi-disciplinary health care, health education and research in collaboration by:
  - I. Encouraging local collaboration on public health projects, student exchange and other initiatives, for example the Teddy Bear Hospital project
  - II. Implementing large scale interdisciplinary public health, educational and/or other initiatives representing healthcare students, for example the Moving On II research project
  - III. Working together for representing the views of health care students to international bodies such as UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), WHO (World Health Organization), EU (European Union) and WHPA (World Health Professions Alliance)
  - IV. Sharing ideas and good practices for adoption of each others’ successful programmes and projects, for example the training programme
  - V. Organising interdisciplinary educational opportunities for health care students, for example the World Healthcare Students Symposium (WorldHSS).

**Timeline:**

The term of this agreement is from 6<sup>th</sup> August 2006 until 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

**Legal considerations:**

1. Adjustments to this agreement can be made at any time, when agreed upon by both organisations.

2. This agreement can be terminated by either organisation at any time, provided six-months notice and a detailed explanation of the reasons for the decision are given in writing.

3. This contract is signed in four copies.

Zlatibor, Serbia, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2006

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Jana Kammeyer  
IFMSA President

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Georgina Gál  
IPSF Secretary General