

ARTICLE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF LATVIA AND DEVELOPMENT FUND EVENT GRANT RECEIVER IN THE 52ND IPSF WORLD CONGRESS, 12TH – 23RD JULY 2006, CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA

It is so far away, down under. We want to participate. Can we get there? Are we ready to do it? How? So many questions came into my mind when I got an email from IPSF about annual congress. Answers one by one appeared and in a wink I found myself in the plane on the way to Hong Kong, my stopover to Cairns.

My name is Juris Zakrevskis and I am from Latvia. It was my great honour to receive an IPSF Development Fund congress grant to attend the 52nd IPSF World Congress in Cairns, Australia in 2006. This was a first time for Latvian Pharmacy Student Association (LPSA) to participate in IPSF congress after becoming a full member two years ago. We managed it, we were lucky, we got a chance.

Two weeks immersed in an international group of pharmacists, not common pharmacy students, but flagships of all pharmacy students in the world. I have never before met so many active young people aiming for the same goal. I felt a huge responsibility upon me, representing Latvia in global arena for the first time. I did my best. I enjoyed all the General Assemblies and learnt a lot about IPSF, its structure, main goals and the people involved in it. Sitting among other representatives from all around the world, thinking over proposed motions and voting on them made me feel like a small but important part of this unique formation that is IPSF. Talking with other students, sharing experiences of association work, problem solutions and building up new cooperation and projects were mixed with great parties and a lot of fun in the social part of congress. After getting through all the lectures, workshops, General assemblies, lunch sandwiches and almost non-stop communication with people from around the whole world made me overcrowded with many new ideas about the future work of LPSA and international cooperation. We will continue our work in the direction of sustainability of SEP and cooperation with the medical students association on common goals. We will focus on national expressions of global problems such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Obesity and will try to give our small contribution towards global fight against them. Brain Drain is another problem we are facing, so we believe that working together in the international range towards education improvement in the Moving On project is essential. We are always ready for collaboration with IPSF and its projects!



And last, but not least, I am very proud of the great leap forward LPSA has taken in the last two years. I would like to express my huge gratitude to all active members of LPSA, other pharmacy students, professors, IPSF and everyone who supported us in our work.

La viva pharmacy!

Juris Zakrevskis
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