In Spain, there are 72,500 registered pharmacists. They work in a wide range of fields of practice, from community and hospital pharmacy, to clinical analysis, nutrition, food and water safety, pharmaceutical distribution, public health, industry, skin care, or education and research, among others.

There is a wide network of community pharmacies in Spain: 22,046 independent community pharmacies are interconnected by means of electronic prescribing systems. Pharmacies are located according to a planning system, ensuring equitable access to medicines and to professional pharmacist services for the whole population.

Some 12,000 students from all over the world are trained in one of the 22 pharmacy faculties in Spain and 2,200 graduate each year.

The 2020 FIP congress will show us that the technological revolution is posing new challenges in all areas. Comprehensive and seamless patient care can be a reality if the possibilities offered by new technologies are exploited to improve quality, efficiency, accessibility and communication in a patient’s health-care journey.
The technological revolution

The 2020 FIP congress in Seville, Spain, calls on pharmacy practitioners, pharmaceutical scientists and educators from around the world to gather together to discuss how new technologies will impact medicines and the people who use them.

Health care and pharmacy are facing both a global and a technological revolution. Whenever we live, the conversation is the same. The ongoing need to reduce the costs of care, higher service expectations and advances in how big data can predict disease faster and more accurately all contribute to growing demands on digital health and the use of technology. The technological revolution enables investments in health care that mean we can proactively enable better health and disease prevention, while minimising costs. It also carries with it the prospect of new pharmacy services with the ability to deliver true beyond-the-pill value.

New technologies will continue to change and develop the health care industry as we know it. Smart systems capable of understanding health issues and complicated diseases will lead to innovations that will affect pharmacy in many ways. On the one hand, innovation will provide new ways of treating diseases, of optimising diagnoses and outcomes, screenings and therapy, and of improving delicate decision-making processes. On the other, it will also impact the business side providing opportunities for companies and organisations to more accurately and efficiently deliver optimised health care.

Technological advancement will affect pharmacy, as it enables pharmacists to interact with patients through the creation of a common platform for accessing data and information in a way that has not been possible before. Technology enables the storage of structured patient records, facilitates electronic prescribing, dispensing and administration of medicines, automates the handling of medicines in the supply chain, and provides tools for monitoring the efficacy and safety of medicines in use. Ultimately, this enables pharmacists to contribute to the provision of high quality care.

The subtopics during the FIP congress in Seville will cover some key topics for pharmacy during the next five to ten years.

**Topic A**
**Enabling change – is your country ready?**
Topic A will focus on change in developing and developed countries, education, workforce, advocacy, regulation, and the cost of change, as well as harnessing expertise from outside the world of pharmacy.

**Topic B**
**Passion for pharmacy innovation, explore the global and start the personal**
Topic B will look at scientific and technological innovation, and how these can be enabled by regulation.

**Topic C**
**From children’s health to healthy ageing – Ensuring a good health span for all**
Topic C recognises that ensuring a healthy life requires a new focus on all health prevention as well as disease treatment, and means people must take responsibility for their own health through self-care and digital tracking of their well-being.

**Topic D**
**Targeting special interest**
Topic D will target special interests in the difference fields of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences.

The General Pharmaceutical Council of Spain welcomes you to Seville and looks forward to meeting you at the 2020 FIP congress.