

WHO UNESCO FIP Pharmacy Education  
Taskforce

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### News and Updates

#### **A new Community of Practice platform “Continuing Pharmacy Education”**

This month saw a new discussion platform launched on the Taskforce CoP. The discussion remit is based on a new concept of Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) and aims to develop thinking and discussion around the holistic concept of life-long learning in pharmacy and how this links with practitioner development. The concept of CPE goes further than both CPD (continued professional development) and CE (continued education).

For example, in some country settings, CPD remains a nascent activity, whilst at the other extreme some countries have introduced “mandatory” CPD activities described as part of professional practice and re-validation. There is evidence in the literature to suggest that CPD is not always as successful, or useful, as we may think; often practitioners may not see the “point of it”, others simply view the activity as collecting “CPD points” without full engagement in a developmental sense. Likewise, continuing education has had a bad press in the past – sometimes viewed as a “university-driven” activity, and there has been criticism that CE courses and programmes are not integrated with practice activities or environments.

The CPE platform will hopefully provide a home for both CPD and CE. Practitioners need choice and support with practitioner development, and ensuring that there is access to useful continuing education (learning?) is essential, wherever the practice environment. In particular, we are keen to promote discussion of CDP and CE (under the continuum of activities – continued pharmacy education) and develop a new vision which actively links continuing education with practitioner development and life-long learning – for the full range and scope of practice environments.

In summary, the Community of Practice discussion forum on CPE aims to provide a member-driven forum to promote and facilitate international networking, information exchange and collaboration in the area of continuing pharmacy education, including continuing professional development, certification and specialization.

We would also like to move towards planning ahead for a member-driven central source of information and resources associated with continuing pharmacy education – CPE. If you have ideas or links or suggestions, we would be pleased to hear about them.

Please contact [education@fip.org](mailto:education@fip.org) for information about the Community of Practice and ideas that you may have for this Continuing Pharmacy Education platform.