

INTRODUCTION TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION

Mission of Pharmacy Education in the Americas

Pharmacy education in the Region of the Americas is responsible for preparing students to begin the practice of pharmacy as vital members of the health care team or to assume other responsibilities that require the knowledge and skills of a pharmacist.

Pharmacy education also prepares students to be informed citizens in a changing health care system. It is also responsible for creating and disseminating new knowledge about pharmaceuticals and the pharmacist's role in the health system of each country in the Americas.

Pharmacy education provides students with the necessary values system for serving society as professionals and informed citizens, giving them a scientific foundation and fostering the attitudes required to adapt their careers to the changing needs of the health system. It also encourages students, before and after graduation, to play an active leadership role in the future policies, practices, and governing bodies of the profession and in addressing national health priorities. (II CPEF, México 1993)

Background

The Pan American Committee on Pharmaceutical¹ Education was created during the III Conference, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina (1996), as established in the Buenos Aires Declaration (Annex 1). At the meeting of the Committee on Education during the VI Conference in Montevideo, the VII Conference in Porto Alegre, and the VIII Conference in Havana, certain aspects were modified and others were added so that the Conference could function properly.

REGULATIONS PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION²

Chapter 1. Purpose of the Pan American Committee on Pharmaceutical Education

Article 1. The purpose of the Pan American Committee on Pharmaceutical Education, created during the III Conference (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1996) is to facilitate and monitor activities connected with the education of pharmacists through the following strategic lines of action:

¹ In the original document, "Comisión Panamericana de Educación en Farmacia."

² Updated pursuant to agreements at the III, VI, VII, and VIII Pan American Conference on Pharmaceutical Education.

- a) Preparation of a directory of the institutions and human resources available to offer courses or advisory services, with a view to facilitating academic exchange and research projects and undergraduate and postgraduate education. The list should be made available through computerized communication networks.
- b) The sharing of experiences on the accreditation and evaluation of schools and colleges of pharmacy for the development of strategies to improve educational content and processes.
- c) Preparation of proposals for modifying curricula in order to establish the basic contents for facilitating interaction among students, educators, and professionals, the integration of other competencies in pharmaceutical work, and the acquisition of new knowledge in the pharmaceutical field.
- d) Promotion of activities that contribute to the training of academic resources with managerial and leadership capacity.
- e) Sharing of experiences on associations and other formal relationships with the public and private sector to develop research projects and services and update curricula, so as to balance human resource supply and demand.
- f) Sharing of experiences on continuing education for pharmacists.
- g) Sharing of information on pharmaceutical legislation and regulations, especially those governing professional practice.
- h) Support for international collaboration to disseminate information about achievements and promote interaction and cooperation in the field.

Chapter 2. Formation of the Pan American Committee on Pharmaceutical Education

Article 2. The Pan American Committee on Pharmaceutical Education, hereinafter “the Committee,” is made up of one delegate from each country in the Americas that has a school or college of pharmacy and an *ex officio* representative of PAHO/WHO.

Chapter 3. The Pan American Conference on Pharmaceutical Education

Article 3. The Pan American Conference on Pharmaceutical Education is the meeting of the country delegates that sit on the Pan American Committee on Pharmaceutical Education and other stakeholders, who may participate but not vote.

Chapter 4. The Executive Committee

Article 4. The Pan American Committee on Pharmaceutical Education shall be coordinated by a five-member Executive Committee made up of representative from the organizing bodies of each of the last three Pan American Conferences, the representative of the entity hosting the new conference, and a PAHO/WHO staff member. The Executive Committee shall support the organization and implementation of activities between Conferences

Chapter 5. Delegates: appointment mechanisms, attributes, and functions

Article 5. Each country shall have a delegate and an alternate, who will serve in his stead when, for just cause, the delegate is unable to perform his duties.

Article 6. Delegates shall be appointed as follows in the following order of priority:

- a) By the country association or federation of schools and colleges of pharmacy.
- b) When there is no association or federation of schools and/or colleges of pharmacy in a country and there are several schools or colleges of pharmacy, by the public institution with the largest faculty.
- c) In countries with a single school or college of pharmacy, by that academic institution.

Article 7. Delegates must possess the following attributes:

- a) Must be a graduate in pharmacy or pharmaceutical sciences
- b) Hold an academic position in an institution of higher education, with teaching responsibilities in the pharmacy program or its equivalent.
- c) Be very involved in the education of pharmacists.
- d) Be capable of influencing pharmacy education in the country that they represent, making possible the necessary changes or improvements in the curriculum.

Article 8. It is the delegates' duty to:

- a) Coordinate the appointment of new country delegates and inform the Executive Committee of their appointment within the time established for this purpose; otherwise, it will be understood that the country has no delegates.
- b) Disseminate the information generated during the Conferences.
- c) Prepare a report on the activities and agreements of the Conference that they attended as delegates and distribute it the schools of pharmacy or similar institutions in their respective countries.
- d) Consult the appropriate individual about specific issues that the Executive Committee deems should be addressed.
- e) Periodically forward new information about pharmacy education in their country to the Executive Committee.
- f) Participate in decision-making with the right to vote, as members of the Pan American Committee on Pharmaceutical Education.

Chapter 6. Conference guests

Article 9. Other Conference attendees may participate in the meetings of the Pan American Committee on Pharmaceutical Education as guests and, therefore, shall only have the right to speak.

Chapter 7. Professional Secretariat

Article 10. The Professional Secretariat of the Conference is the body tasked with maintaining the link between the members of the Committee and the Executive Committee so as to facilitate communication between Conferences, support the implementation of agreements, and monitor compliance. The Secretariat shall be appointed with the consent of the Executive Committee for the period that the latter deems necessary.

Article 11. The head of the Secretariat shall be an expert with the following profile; he or she shall:

- a) be a pharmacist, a pharmaceutical chemist, or a pharmaceutical biochemist with an undergraduate degree in pharmacy or pharmaceutical sciences.
- b) be teaching in the pharmacy program of an institution of higher education.
- c) have participated in at least one of the Conferences held.
- d) have leadership capacity.
- e) have managerial capacity.
- f) have institutional support.
- g) be proficient in at least two languages, Spanish, and English.
- h) have a user's knowledge of computer tools.
- i) have time to fulfill his or her duties.

Chapter 8. The Conferences, their periodicity, mechanisms for selecting the venue, other matters

Article 12. The Conferences shall be held every two years.

Article 13. The Conference venue must meet the following requirements:

- a) Have the organizational capacity to hold the event
- b) Have political-institutional, economic, and logistical support
- c) Offer additional advantages that provoke interest and motivate participants to attend the Conference and contribute to the achievement of its objectives.

Article 14. Conference venues shall be selected by secret ballot of the delegates, to be held during a meeting of the Pan American Committee on Pharmaceutical Education.

Article 15. Countries that have not hosted other Conferences shall be given preference when the venue is selected to encourage participation and diversity.

Article 16. The maximum time permitted for requesting a change of venue for a Conference shall be eight months from the date of selection. The country with the second highest vote shall become the new venue for the Conference, once the delegate from the country involved has consulted with the Executive Committee.

