

Vancouver, September ' 97



## FIP PRESS RELEASE

### **FIP co-operates with the World Medical Association**

**Doctors and pharmacists need to co-operate more in the future. That was the message from Dr Anders Milton (Sweden), Chairman of the Board of the World Medical Association, when he met the world's press on Tuesday during the Vancouver Congress week.**

'We have started a discussion between our two organisations in order to find common goals and guidelines on how to co-operate more in the future,' said Dr. Anders Milton at the press meeting. 'There are differences today in our way of seeing how this co-operation will take place. Nevertheless I am optimistic, although I don't think we will have an agreement today – maybe not even tomorrow – but eventually.'

Today the two organisations agree that patients in the future are going to be much more in control than today. This will shift both the pharmacists' and the doctors' work from a leading role to a more of a supporting role.

The big question will be under which terms this co-operation will be?

'If you start taking blood samples, blood pressures or making diagnoses, we'll think that you're stepping in to our area a little bit too much. The same goes for wanting access to the patient's records,' Dr. Anders Milton said.

'I do think that pharmacists have an important role to play in assuring that the quality of drugs is upheld and to enforce the information given by the doctor to the patient about his or her drugs. This is also an area where we need more co-operation between the professions. If the information given by the doctor and the pharmacist isn't the same, the patient's trust in can be ruined,' said Dr. Milton.

Dr. Milton also pointed out that he finds the signing of national agreements on co-operation between the two professions very constructive. This is the case in Canada and Denmark – and more will undoubtedly follow in future, Dr. Milton ended.

The FIP President, Dr. Dieter Steinbach, Germany, will continue to meet regularly with his President colleague in future as well – either in the FIP headquarters in The Hague or at the World Medical Association's residence in Geneva.

**For further information, please contact:  
Peter Zethner-Moller, FIP Publications Manager  
Andries Bickerweg 5, 2517 JP The Hague, The Netherlands  
Tel: +31 70 363 1925 Fax: +31 70 365 90 47  
E-mail: p.zethner-moller@fip.nl**