When opening this historic Global Conference on the Future of Hospital Pharmacy, I remarked that hospital pharmacists are often consumed by the “here and now,” focusing firmly on the patients at hand and the challenges of the moment. There is rarely the opportunity to devote sufficient time to envisioning the preferred future for hospital pharmacy. Today, we can say that hospital pharmacy has grasped that nettle and taken the time to stop, take stock, think, and plan a way forward for the profession. We have encapsulated that vision in a series of consensus statements—the Basel Statements on the Future of Hospital Pharmacy. Each of these statements has been crafted, debated, picked apart, and reconstructed. Each represents the collective efforts of the 348 participants from 98 different countries at this Global Conference. This is truly a global event and a global outcome.

The Basel Statements were based not only on our own views and beliefs but fundamentally underpinned by two key pieces of work. The first of these was the Global Survey of Hospital Pharmacy Practice, supported by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Board of Pharmaceutical Practice. The second of these was the series of evidence summaries developed by our panel of experts—Eva Ombaka, Lisa Nissen, Rita Shane, Tana Wuliji, Ryujo Oishi, and David Cousins. Not only have they provided us with a solid basis for our discussions, but they have expertly facilitated those discussions and teased out the elements that have become the Basel Statements. The Basel Statements are based on a global consensus and supported by evidence, making them infinitely more powerful as drivers of our efforts to attain the preferred future for hospital pharmacy which we have, together, envisioned.

I wish to thank our two honorary conference cochairs—Jacqueline Surugue and Henri Manasse—for their inspiring words. We have also been privileged to have heard from two outstanding guest speakers—Malebona Precious Matsoso, who opened this conference with a stirring call to action, and Wen-Shyong Liou, who has left us with a clear sense of what is possible with increased global collaboration.

We are especially thankful for the generous support of our Platinum Sponsor, Cardinal Health, as well as the support of Amgen, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, Grifols, and Hospira. This global conference was also supported by grants from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists, and the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

A number of people deserve particular mention. The Global Conference steering committee was ably chaired by Lee Vermeulen, assisted by Bill Zellmer. The other members of the steering committee were Toby Clark, Arnold Vulto, Stephen Curtis, Stefan Mühlebach, Eduardo Savio, Zhu Zhu, Tom Thielke, Dick Tromp, and Phil Schneider. Arnold Vulto led the programming subcommittee with energy and incredible attention to detail. The level of support we obtained would not have been possible without the efforts of Toby Clark and his finance subcommittee, including Dan Ashby, Paul Bush, Mike Flagstad, Marianne Ivey, Jerry Siegel, Jim Stevenson, Tom Thielke, and Roger Tredree. Our thanks must also go to Fred Doloresco, who assisted Lee Vermeulen with the Global Survey of Hospital Pharmacy Practice. Key to our dissemination of the results of this Global Conference are our plans to publish a supplement to the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy. In that regard, the ongoing assistance of Richard Talley is much appreciated. The solid support of Ton Hoek and the entire FIP headquarters staff must also be mentioned. To many of you, though, the person who has been the most visible, the cornerstone of so much that we have achieved, has been Satu Siiskonen. We cannot thank her enough for all she has done.

The process will not end here in Basel. The Basel Statements on the Future of Hospital Pharmacy need to become a living document that influences hospital pharmacy in every country. To do so, they must be made applicable to all health systems.
at all levels of development. What is easily attainable in one setting may pose tremendous challenges in another. However, hospital pharmacy has today taken a stand. Hospital pharmacists have stated clearly that, as a profession, they are both ready and willing to accept responsibility for all medicines, everywhere in the hospital, and at all times. In order to make a difference, hospital pharmacists will need to work closely with all other health professionals. Where in the past we have focused a lot of effort on influencing prescribing decisions, we will now have to focus to a far greater extent on our ability to positively influence the safe administration of medicines. That will mean working far more closely with our nursing colleagues.

We also need to deepen our understanding of the state of hospital pharmacy practice at national, regional, and global levels. This will not only require a more in-depth analysis and presentation of the results of the Global Survey of Hospital Pharmacy Practice but the development of appropriate instruments to allow each country to measure its own progress. The FIP Hospital Pharmacy Section has started planning academic sessions to be offered at future FIP congresses, which will include work in this regard.

Together, you have constituted the most globally representative meeting ever of hospital pharmacists. You have given of your time, knowledge, and experience to help craft a picture of the preferred future for hospital pharmacy. The next steps will also depend on you, as leaders of the hospital pharmacy profession, to make the Basel Statement on the Future of Hospital Pharmacy a reality, in each of your countries and for the benefit of all the people we serve.

Jacqueline Surugue, Diplôme d’Etat de Pharmacie, Praticien Hospitalier, Discipline Pharmacie, is Chief of Pharmacy, Centre Hospitalier Georges Renon, 40 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 79000 Niort, France, and President, European Association of Hospital Pharmacists; she was Honorary Cochair of the Global Conference on the Future of Hospital Pharmacy (president@eahp.eu).

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