

2023

HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF PATIENTS' ORGANIZATIONS

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2023: A YEAR OF IMPACT

In 2023, IAPO embarked on a journey of collaboration, advocacy and innovation to advance patient-centred healthcare globally. This report presents our 2023 Highlights organized according to IAPO Strategic Plan 2022-2024.

To learn more, visit www.iapo.org.uk/strategy.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2024

01 EMPOWER

Empower members with cutting-edge knowledge and advocacy skills to enhance the reach, efficacy, and impact of our membership in bringing about a Patient-Centred (PC) and Pandemic Prepared (PP) Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

02 DRIVE RESEARCH

Co-create evidence in support of healthcare that is PC, PP and a UHC that strengthens patient involvement in clinical research and global health institutes.

03 SHAPE LAW, POLICY, STANDARDS

Apply the empowered patient community and evidence created to shape the institutional, law, policy, practice, and standards framework for healthcare that is PC, PP and a UHC at global, regional, and national levels.

STRATEGY GOAL 1: EMPOWER

- We hosted our **10th Global Patients Congress** at the Maison Internationale des Associations in Geneva, Switzerland, as a hybrid event during the weekend before the **76th World Health Assembly (WHA76)** with the theme “Innovative patient partnerships at the heart of global health advancement”.



GPC 2023 brought together

1206

Delegates from

111



countries,
including IAPO's
global membership

42

Speakers discussing and sharing their experiences to promote global health through innovative, collaborative and meaningful relationships in

8

capacity-building sessions



STRATEGY GOAL 1: EMPOWER

- We launched the **African Patients Village**, a patient-led multi-stakeholder arena that explores the power of togetherness to address current health challenges and promote patient-centred sustainable and resilient health systems in Africa. The first edition of the village was held on the sidelines of the **73rd session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa** in Gaborone, Botswana, and it focused on two topics:
- E-health solutions co-designed through public-private-patient organizations collaborations
 - The multistakeholder engagement in support of the efforts to ensure access to safe medical products is institutionalized through the recently established **African Medicines Agency Treaty Alliance (AMATA)**.

- As part of our ongoing activities related to the **African Medicines Agency Treaty Alliance (AMATA)**, we held the **3rd webinar of the AMATA webinar series with Chimwemwe Chamdim**, the African Medicines Regulation Harmonization Programme Head.

The webinar highlighted significant progress in operationalizing the agency and shared insights on the African Medicines Agency's (AMA) role in harmonizing medicine regulations across Africa.

- In collaboration with **BETTEReHEALTH**, we held the webinar **"eHealth: Assuring better health services, healthcare access and health literacy for the benefit of patient safety and health"**, where we discussed the use and implementation of eHealth-related solutions for patient health and safety.

The webinar emphasized the importance of eHealth solutions in empowering patients with comprehensive and readily available information about their medication, enabling informed decision-making and improved self-management. Participants acknowledged the potential of eHealth platforms to enhance medication adherence by providing reminders, educational resources, and personalized support to patients, thereby promoting better health outcomes.

STRATEGY GOAL 1: EMPOWER

- We advanced the **Patient Academy website** by collaborating on additional modules, involving patients in creating videos, and fostering engagement through social media awareness posts.

The vision of the Patient Academy is to create communities of empowered patients who take ownership of the management of their medical condition through customized health information.

- IAPO joined **GS1, IHF, EAHP and ISQUA** on an awareness and celebration campaign spanning over 6 days on social media to mark **World Patient Safety Day 2023**, where each organization shared their views on the best way to engage with patients to advance patient safety globally.

As part of the commemoration, IAPO participated as one of the speakers at the **WHO Global Conference** entitled **“Engaging Patients for Patient Safety”**, which was instrumental in amplifying the patient voice and advocating for patient-centred approaches to healthcare safety. We remain committed to collaborating with stakeholders worldwide to ensure that patient safety remains a top priority in healthcare systems globally.

- We joined other health stakeholders from all over the world to celebrate **Patient Solidarity Day (PSD) 2023** under the theme **“Expert patients - the indispensable voice”**.

On PSD 2023, we celebrated the strength, resilience, and knowledge of expert patients who have taken control of their health journeys and contributed to health systems strengthening in various ways.

IAPO’s PSD 2023 also included a tribute to the remarkable life and contributions of our beloved departed **Kawaldip Sehmi, the former IAPO CEO***.



STRATEGY GOAL 1: EMPOWER

- To mark **World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)**, IAPO and IAPO Patients for Patient Safety Observatory and its AMR Patient Alliance released **a call for cross-sectoral collaboration** to address the growing threat of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) ahead of the 2024 High-Level Political Declaration.
- We had the privilege of joining a hybrid session titled "**Confronting Antimicrobial Resistance in Healthcare**" and "**Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease Advocacy – The Power of Changing Complex Scenarios in Favour of Health Care**" at the **Global Forum Frontiers of Health 2023**.

Hosted by the **Side by Side Brazilian Institute**, the event brought together key stakeholders, including IAPO member Fernanda de Carvalho, and representatives from the Observatory and the AMR Patient Alliance. These sessions discussed the far-reaching implications of AMR for patient care, treatment outcomes, and healthcare systems worldwide, and the vital role of advocacy in the fight against cancer and cardiovascular diseases (CVD) in driving positive change and improving healthcare outcomes for individuals affected by these diseases.

- We were honoured to participate in the **Global Self-Care Federation Event** alongside our esteemed partners from the **United for Self-Care Coalition**.

At the WHA76 Side Event titled "**Self-Care: A Foundational Component of Health System Sustainability**," IAPO had the opportunity to highlight the crucial role of self-care practices in primary healthcare. We emphasized how these practices not only enhance patient safety but also contribute significantly to the achievement of Universal Health Coverage.

STRATEGY GOAL 1: EMPOWER

- We were also honoured to join the **Global Patient Think Tank (GPTT)**, a multinational group of patient and community representatives calling for the inclusion of the patient voice in both global UHC policy decision-making and national-level UHC design, implementation and governance. IAPO's participation in this initiative underscores our commitment to further integrate the patient perspective in UHC initiatives.

- We integrated the advisory committee of the **International Experience Exchange with Patient Organisations (IEEPO)**, a global platform of engagement for the patient community and other healthcare stakeholders, to co-create and collaborate, and to be strong partners with an equal voice in the dialogue to transform the future of healthcare together.



STRATEGY GOAL 2: DRIVE RESEARCH

- As part of our strategy to drive research, IAPO commissioned the Swedish Institute of Health Economics (IHE) to develop the research project **Improving Breast Cancer Care in the Middle East and Africa**, by working on a comparative assessment of the disease burden and the economic burden of breast cancer, as well as of early detection and treatment of the disease. The Policy Report and an Advocacy Toolkit will be launched in 2024.
- We continued our support as part of the **Advisory Group** and as a patient representative of the international research project **EOLinPlace**. This project is hosted by the University of Coimbra and is the largest study of international time trends in place of death and the first showing a rise of home deaths in the COVID-19 pandemic across countries.
- IAPO also continued to participate as a member of the **BMJ Patient Advisory Panel**, advising within the different working groups, including the ones on Patient Safety and Healthcare Sustainability.

STRATEGY GOAL 3: SHAPE LAW, POLICY, STANDARDS

- Following on the important statements put forward in previous years, IAPO delivered two statements at the **76th World Health Assembly (WHA76)**: one on **Agenda Item 13.1 - Universal Health Coverage** and the other on **Agenda Item 13.2 - Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and mental health.**
- The **Personalised Cancer Care Alliance (PCCA)**, set up by IAPO in 2022, held the **WHA76 Side Event “Amana upon our shoulders – Call to adoption and integration of personalised cancer care in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region”**, which addressed the care and suffering of cancer patients in the region through advocating for personalised cancer care.



STRATEGY GOAL 3: SHAPE LAW, POLICY, STANDARDS

We also released a **Call to Action** for the adoption and integration of personalised cancer care in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region.

- The **PCCA** also held the **Roundtable “Uniting Voices for Participatory Patient-Centred Healthcare - The 5 Ps Framework”** on the sidelines of the **70th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean** in Cairo, Egypt.

The roundtable brought together key health stakeholders (patients, WHO, academia, healthcare providers, and industry) to discuss ways of including the patient's voice within the healthcare system and continuum of care towards better outcomes and true patient-centred healthcare.

- We joined the **United for Self-Care Coalition** at the **WHA76** in advocating for the integration of self-care in health systems. Together, we developed an **open letter** urging Member States to prioritize self-care as a critical component of the healthcare continuum, particularly in the context of managing the burden of NCDs and realizing Universal Health Coverage.

- IAPO endorsed the **Statement on substandard and falsified medical products** (Agenda item 152.7) delivered by the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF), on behalf of the **African Medicines Agency Treaty Alliance (AMATA)**, at the 152nd session of the Executive Board at the World Health Organization in Geneva.

The statement emphasized the critical importance of combating substandard and falsified medical products.

IAPO fully supports the draft list of prioritized activities outlined in the statement, particularly the objective to strengthen the capacity of national/regional regulatory authorities for the prevention, detection, and response to substandard and falsified medical products.

STRATEGY GOAL 3: SHAPE LAW, POLICY, STANDARDS

- As part of our activities within the **Global Coalition for Circulatory Health (GCCH)**, we collaborated on the **76th World Health Assembly** statements as well as on the **GCCH white paper for circulatory health and UHC**.

The GCCH is an alliance that brings together international, regional and national stakeholders in circulatory health to drive the urgent action needed to combat heart disease and stroke.

- As a founding member of the **Fight the Fakes (FTF) Alliance**, we continued to be a partner in marking eight years since it was first set up as a grassroots advocacy campaign. In 2023 we were part of the Executive Board together with seven other Non-State Actors in official relations with the WHO.

We joined the **Fight the Fakes week campaign** where we raised awareness of the dangers of substandard and falsified medicines for patient safety under the theme 'Africa Together Against Substandard and Falsified Medicines' and the **Call to Action** 'Africa – Speak Up – Stand Up'.

- We collaborated with the **Africa Civil Society Organizations Working Group on Pandemic Preparedness and Response (ACSOsWGPR)** to elevate the patient voice in pandemic planning and response efforts.

Co-convened by Pandemic Action Network and PATH, **ACSOsWGPR** aims to strengthen collective civil society advocacy to shape decision-making and implementation in response to COVID-19 and future health threats. Together, we work towards a more inclusive and effective pandemic response.

- IAPO participated in the **UN High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage at UNGA78**, held in New York. The meeting focused on expanding the ambition for health and well-being in a post-COVID world, aiming to review the implementation of the 2019 Political Declaration and identify solutions to accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage by 2030.

STRATEGY GOAL 3: SHAPE LAW, POLICY, STANDARDS

Our participation underscored the importance of a primary healthcare approach in engaging and empowering patients and communities. We also highlighted primary health care as essential for ensuring holistic and integrated health care, contributing to social justice and yielding long-lasting impact on population health and socioeconomic growth.

IAPO'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We held our Annual General Meeting in December 2023 where we announced the newly elected and re-elected **Governing Board Members** and presented further updates on **IAPO's new leadership and strategic direction for 2024 and beyond.**



THANK YOU

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations is registered in England and Wales as charity n° 1155577 and company limited by guarantee n° 08495711.

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