

# Patient & person-centred medicine

## IAPO Governing Board confirms support for ICPCM Declaration



### **ICPCM Declaration on Person-and People-Centred Integrated Healthcare for All**

We are pleased to confirm that the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) supports the key themes and principles outlined in the Geneva Declaration on Person-and-People-Centred Integrated Healthcare for All (PPCIC) released by the International College of Person-Centred Medicine (ICPCM) Board on 27 May 2014.

The IAPO Governing Board confirmed its support after consideration at its September 2014 meeting. IAPO is a unique global alliance of almost 250 global patients' organisations that work at the local, national, regional and international levels to represent people with chronic illnesses and diseases of all types. Members are founded and governed by patients themselves and as an alliance we advocate for patient-centred healthcare and universal health coverage in all countries and at every level. The PPCIC Declaration is significantly aligned with IAPO's own [Declaration on Patient-Centred Healthcare](#), which was adopted in February 2006 following member consultation.

IAPO strongly supports the need for equity in developing and delivering effective healthcare policy at the international, regional, national and local levels. All people, regardless of disease or condition, age, gender, race or ethnic background, sexual orientation, geographic location, socio-economic and legal status must have fair and impartial access to healthcare. Careful consideration must be given to the needs of vulnerable groups, including appropriate involvement of carers, family members and the community.

Universal health coverage is underpinned by the need for integrated and timely care that takes the whole patient and their needs into account, and this is highlighted effectively in the PPCIC Declaration. The right to access includes appropriate preventative services, emergency care, diagnostics and treatment, specialist and community care, rehabilitative and end of life services. Health systems under pressure can best meet the diverse needs of patients by focusing on the whole-life health journey. By focusing on patients as individuals with different needs, health and life goals rather than simply on the disease to be treated, patients can take responsibility to adhere to treatments, make effective behavioural changes and self-manage chronic conditions.

IAPO believes that patient-centred healthcare is a fundamental principle and not an 'initiative' that requires separate funding as such. IAPO's own Declaration states that patient-centred healthcare means that:

*'the healthcare system is designed and delivered to address the healthcare needs and preferences of patients so that healthcare is appropriate and cost-effective. By promoting greater*

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*patient responsibility and optimal usage, patient-centred healthcare leads to improved health outcomes, quality of life and optimal value' for all healthcare investment.*

IAPO supports the call to individual and collaborative action that is included in the Declaration, and looks forward to working with ICPCM and other partners on enhancing PPCIC for people in all countries around the world. Achieving patient-centred healthcare at every level and in every community requires the support and collaboration of patients and patients' organizations, policy-makers, health professionals, service providers and health-related industries. Policies and practices must be agreed, acted upon, monitored and evaluated. Learning and effective-practice examples should be shared and publicised to illustrate the benefits and outcomes of patient-centred healthcare.

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