

# Opportunities for International Engagement: Regulatory Cooperation, Convergence and Harmonization

C. Michelle Limoli, PharmD

CBER International Affairs

July 2022

# Presentation Overview

- FDA's engagement in global activities and current approach
- Review several key international harmonization and regulatory convergence initiatives, scope, goals and activities
- Learn what opportunities are available to regulators and industry across the globe

# FDA's International Activities

- **Domestic/Internal US:** Intra-Center; Intra-Agency; USG Intergovernmental
- **International:** Bilateral Engagements
- **Multilateral Engagements**
  - Most efficient model - spares resources
  - Reduces duplication of efforts
  - Promotes global public health
  - Diversity- encourage international regulatory collaboration efforts across both developed and developing regulatory authorities
  - Promote implementation of internationally-developed guidelines and standards to reduce the burden of regulation



# International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use

[www.ich.org](http://www.ich.org)

# ICH Overview

- **Regulators and industry:** international harmonization of technical guidelines to enhance public health
- Launched in 1990 by US, EU, & Japan. Has expanded global participation and engagement through recent reforms
- Well-defined objectives:
  - **To improve efficiency of new drug development and registration processes**
  - **To promote public health, prevent duplication of clinical trials in humans and minimize the use of animal testing without compromising safety and effectiveness**

**HOW=>** Developing harmonized, technical guidelines and standards that are implemented by regulatory authorities.

# Major ICH Topic Areas

## Safety

- Carcinogenicity studies
- Genotoxicity studies
- Toxicokinetics and Pharmacokinetics
- Duration of chronic toxicity testing
- Reproductive toxicology
- Safety pharmacology studies
- Immunotoxicology studies
- Nonclinical evaluation for anticancer pharmaceuticals
- Photosafety evaluation
- Nonclinical pediatric safety

## Efficacy

- Clinical safety
- Clinical study reports
- Dose-response studies
- Good clinical practice
- Clinical trials
- Clinical evaluation by therapeutic category
- Clinical evaluation
- Pharmacogenomics

## Quality

- Stability
- Analytical validation
- Impurities
- Pharmacopoeias
- Specifications
- Good manufacturing practice
- Pharmaceutical development
- Quality risk management
- Pharmaceutical quality system
- Development and manufacture of drug substances

## Multidisciplinary

- MedDRA terminology
- Electronic standards
- Nonclinical safety studies
- CTD and eCTD
- Bioanalytical Method Validation
- Biopharmaceutics Classification System-based Biowaivers
- Data elements and standards for drug dictionaries
- Gene therapy
- Mutagenic impurities
- Drug Interaction Studies
- Bioequivalence for IR solid

# ICH Members

## Founding Regulatory Members

- EC, Europe
- FDA, US
- MHLW/PMDA, Japan

## Founding Industry Members

- EFPIA
- PhRMA
- JPMA

## Standing Regulatory Members

- Health Canada, Canada
- Swissmedic, Switzerland

## Regulatory Members

- ANVISA, Brazil
- COFEPRIS, Mexico
- HSA, Singapore
- MFDS, Republic of Korea
- MHRA, UK
- NMPA, China
- SFDA, Saudi Arabia
- TFDA, Chinese Taipei
- TITCK, Turkey

## Industry Members

- BIO
- Global Self-Care Federation
- IGBA

# ICH Observers

## Standing Observers

- IFPMA
- WHO

## Regional Harmonization Initiatives

- APEC
- ASEAN
- EAC
- GHC
- PANDRH
- SADC

## Legislative or Administrative Authorities

- AEC, Azerbaijan
- ANMAT, Argentina
- ANPP, Algeria
- CDSCO, India
- CECMED, Cuba
- CPED, Israel
- EDA, Egypt
- Indonesian FDA, Indonesia
- INVIMA, Colombia
- JFDA, Jordan

## Int'l Pharmaceutical Industry Organizations

- APIC

## Int'l Orgs regulated by or affected by ICH guidelines

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- CIOMS
- EDQM
- IPEC
- PIC/S
- USP



# ICH Training

**Guideline Training:** ICH is working to ensure that high quality training is available based upon scientific and regulatory principles outlined in its guidelines.

## Efforts include:

- Development of a Training Library on the ICH website
- Funding support for training programs organized by ICH regulatory members and observers.
- ICH Recognized Training Programs
- Online training materials development including some translations.



# IPRP

International Pharmaceutical  
Regulators Programme

[www.iprp.global](http://www.iprp.global)

# IPRP

- Safe Harbor forum for global **regulators** to exchange information on issues of mutual interest and enable regulatory cooperation
- IPRP was established as a result of a consolidation of the International Pharmaceutical Regulators Forum (IPRF) and the International Generic Drug Regulators Programme (IGDRP) in 2013
- Meets biannually on borders of ICH meetings & interim tcons
- Recent Topics Discussed:
  - Regulatory Reliance
  - E-labelling for pharmaceuticals
  - ICH GL Implementation issues
  - Environmental Risk Assessments

# I PRP Membership

- ANMAT, Argentina
- ANVISA, Brazil
- APEC
- ASEAN
- CECMED, Cuba
- COFEPRIS, Mexico
- CPED, Israel
- EAC
- EC/EMA, Europe
- FDA, United States
- GHC
- Health Canada, Canada
- HSA, Singapore
- Indonesian FDA, Indonesia
- INVIMA, Colombia
- Medsafe, New Zealand
- MFDS, Republic of Korea
- MHLW/PMDA, Japan
- MHRA, UK
- National Center, Kazakhstan
- NPRA, Malaysia
- NRA, Iran
- PAHO/PANDRH
- Roszdravnadzor, Russia
- SADC
- SAHPRA, South Africa
- SFDA, Saudi Arabia
- Swissmedic, Switzerland
- TFDA, Chinese Taipei
- TGA, Australia
- TITCK, Turkey
- EDQM (Observer)
- WHO (Observer)

# IPRP Work Groups

- Bioequivalence for Generics
- Biosimilars
- Cell Therapy
- Gene Therapy
- Identification of Medicinal Products
- Nanomedicines
- Pharmacovigilance
- Quality



# International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities

**[www.icmra.info](http://www.icmra.info)**

# ICMRA

- Heads of Agency (HoA) leadership initiative
- Address current and emerging human medicine regulatory and safety challenges globally, strategically and in an ongoing, transparent, authoritative and institutional manner
- COVID-19 Focus: supporting strategic coordination and international cooperation among global medicine regulatory authorities:
  - to expedite and streamline the development, authorization and availability of COVID-19 treatments and vaccines worldwide
  - Increasing efficiency and effectiveness of regulatory processes and decision-making

# ICMRA Members

- Australia: [TGA](#)
- Brazil: [ANVISA](#)
- Canada: [HPFB-HC](#)
- China: [NMPA](#)
- European Union: [DG SANTE](#)
- European Union: [EMA](#)
- France: [ANSM](#)
- Germany: [PEI](#)
- Mexico: [COFEPRIS](#)
- India: [MoHFW](#)
- Ireland: [HPRA](#)
- Italy: [AIFA](#)
- Japan: [MHLW](#)
- Japan: [PMDA](#)
- Republic of Korea: [MFDS](#)
- The Netherlands: [CBG-MEB](#)
- New Zealand: [Medsafe](#)
- Nigeria: [NAFDAC](#)
- Singapore: [HSA](#)
- South Africa: [SAHPRA](#)
- Sweden: [MPA](#)
- Switzerland: [Swissmedic](#)
- UK: [MHRA](#)
- US: [FDA](#)



# ICMRA Associate Members

- Argentina: [\(ANMAT\)](#)
- Austria: [\(AGES\)](#)
- Colombia: [\(INVIMA\)](#)
- Cuba: [\(CECMED\)](#)
- Denmark: [\(DKMA\)](#)
- Ghana: [Food and Drugs Authority](#)
- Israel: [\(MOH\)](#)
- Poland: [\(URPL\)](#)
- Portugal: [\(INFARMED\)](#)
- Russia: [\(Roszdravnadzor\)](#)
- Saudi Arabia: [\(SFDA\)](#)
- Spain: [\(AEMPS\)](#)
- Ukraine: [The State Expert Centre of the Ministry of Health of the Ukraine](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

# Current ICMRA Initiatives

- Communication
- Crisis Management
- Innovation
- Pharmacovigilance
  - Big Data
  - Increasing Adverse Event Reporting
  - Vaccines
- Supply Chain Integrity
- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- Reliance
- Pharmaceutical Quality Knowledge Management System (PQKMS)



# Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

[WWW.APEC.ORG](http://WWW.APEC.ORG)

**Regulatory Harmonization  
Steering Committee**



**Life Sciences  
Innovation Forum**

# APEC Member Economies

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Australia        | Brunei Darussalam |
| Canada           | Chile             |
| China            | Hong Kong         |
| Indonesia        | Japan             |
| Korea            | Malaysia          |
| Mexico           | New Zealand       |
| Papua New Guinea | Russia            |
| Peru             | Chinese Taipei    |
| Philippines      | United States     |
| Singapore        |                   |
| Thailand         |                   |
| Vietnam          |                   |

# Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC)

- **Mission:** facilitate regulatory cooperation among medical product regulatory authorities, build human capacity in regulatory science among medical product regulatory staff, and promote political will for convergence among regulatory policymakers in APEC
- **Scope:** Pharmaceutical Products & Medical Devices
- **Members:**
  - Regulators from APEC Economies
  - Industry coalitions: Research-based Pharmaceuticals  
 Medical Devices  
 Generic Pharmaceutical  
 Biotechnological Products  
 Advanced Therapies
  - CoE Coalition of Training Partners

# Focused Workstreams: Priority Work Areas (PWAs) (Champion Regulatory Authorities)

- Multi Regional Clinical Trials and Good Clinical Practices Inspections (Japan, Thailand)
- Pharmacovigilance (Korea)
- Biotherapeutics (US)
- Advanced Therapies (Singapore, US,)
- Good Registration Management (Chinese Taipei, Japan)
- Medical Devices (Japan, Korea, US)
- Global Supply Chain Integrity (US)

# Current APEC Regulatory Training Centers of Excellence (CoEs)



- **Peking University** (MRCT/GCP and Pharmacovigilance)
- **Sichuan University** (Medical Devices)
- **PMDA** (Pharmacovigilance and Medical Devices)
- **PMDA w/NCC** (MRCT/GCP)
- **Kobe University** (Biotherapeutic Products)
- **KIDS, Korea** (Pharmacovigilance)
- **NIDS, Korea** (Medical Devices)
- **KoNECT, Korea** (MRCT/GCP)
- **Taylor's University, Malaysia** (Supply Chain)
- **Duke-NUS Singapore** (MRCT/GCP, Advanced Therapies, Biotherapeutics, Devices)
- **Thai FDA** (GRM)
- **TFDA** (Medical Devices)
- **TFDA with RAPS Taiwan Chapter** (GRM)
- **Northeastern University** (Biotherapeutics, Advanced Therapies, Medical Devices)
- **University of Tennessee HSC** (Supply Chain)
- **USP** (Supply Chain and Advanced Therapy Products)
- **MRCT Center of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard** (MRCT/GCP)
- **University of Southern California** (Medical Devices)
- **Soonchunhyang University, Korea** (Medical Devices)



**The Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme**

[www.picscheme.org](http://www.picscheme.org)



# PIC/S

- The Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme (PIC/S): non-binding, informal cooperative arrangement between Regulatory Authorities in GMPs of human or vet medicinal products
- Open to any Authority having a comparable GMP inspection system.
- Goal: **harmonizing inspection procedures** worldwide by developing common GMP standards and training
- Facilitates **cooperation and networking** between competent authorities, regional and international organizations

# PIC/S Participating Authorities

- Argentina
- Australia
- Israel
- Italy
- Austria
- Belgium
- Japan (MHLW/PMDA)
- US
- Brazil
- Canada
- Latvia
- Lichtenstein
- Chinese Taipei
- Croatia
- Lithuania
- Malaysia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Malta
- Mexico
- Czech Rep (vet)
- Denmark
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Estonia
- Finland
- Norway
- Poland
- France
- Germany
- Portugal
- Romania
- Greece
- Hong Kong
- Singapore
- Slovak Republic
- Iceland
- Indonesia
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- Iran
- Ireland
- Spain
- Sweden
- Israel
- Italy
- Thailand
- Turkey
- Italy (vet)
- Korea
- Ukraine
- UK

# PIC/S Activities

- Expert Circles
  - API
  - Good Distribution Practices
  - Human Blood, Tissues, Cells & ATMPs
  - Quality Risk Management
  - Control of Cross-Contamination in Shared Facilities
  - Working group on Good Clinical and Good Pharmaceutical Practices
  - Working Group on Computerized Systems
  - Veterinary Medicinal Products
- PIC/S Inspectorates' Academy (PIA): web-based educational center aimed at harmonizing and standardizing GMP training at an international level



# International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF)

[www.imdrf.org](http://www.imdrf.org)

# IMDRF Overview

- Launched 2012 as successor to the Global Harmonization Task Force (GHTF)
- Chair and secretariat rotate on annual basis, beginning with Australia (2012), EU (2013), US (2014), Japan (2015), Brazil (2016), Canada (2017), China (2018), Russia (2019), Singapore (2020), S. Korea (2021), Australia (2022)
- Decisions are made by consensus, not voting
- 2 in person meetings per year (March and September)
- **Includes public stakeholder session which provides updates from MC members, IMDRF working groups, RHIs, industry associations, etc.**



**Official Observers**



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**



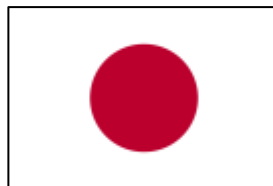
**Global Harmonization Working Party**

GHWP Towards Medical Device Harmonization



**Pan American  
Health  
Organization**

**Regional Harmonization Initiatives**



**Management Committee (MC) Members**



**IMDRF**

International Medical Device  
Regulators Forum

# IMDRF Mission and Goals

## Mission

To strategically accelerate international medical device regulatory convergence to promote an efficient and effective regulatory model for medical devices that is responsive to emerging challenges in the sector while protecting and maximizing public health and safety.

## Goals

- Accelerate international medical device regulatory harmonization and convergence building on the work of the Global Harmonization Task Force.
- Address common public health regulatory challenges to convergence due to the globalization of medical device production and the emergence of new technologies.
- Accelerate innovation by clear and practical regulatory expectations.
- Focus on premarket and postmarket requirements.

# Current IMDRF Working Groups



International Medical Device  
Regulators Forum

1. Good Regulatory Review Practices (GRRP)  
(Chairs: US and Singapore)
2. Regulated Product Submission (RPS)  
(Chairs: US and Canada)
3. Cybersecurity (Chairs: US and Canada)
4. Personalized Medical Devices (Chair:  
Australia)
5. Artificial Intelligence (Chair: S. Korea)
6. Adverse Event Terminology (Chair: Japan)
7. IVD Clinical Evaluation (Chair: Russia)
8. Software as a Medical Device\* (Chairs: US  
and Canada)

\* WG approved in April 2022



# Summary

- International regulatory cooperation has become an essential part of dealing effectively with the challenges of an increasingly complex and global environment
- Engaging in regulatory convergence and harmonization efforts can improve efficiencies of the medical product development process
- Working multilaterally has many benefits including sparing of resources, avoiding duplication of efforts and reaching more stakeholders in efforts to improve global public health

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide featuring a large, thin black circle, a smaller solid green circle, and several overlapping grey arcs of varying thicknesses.

**Thank  
you**

[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)