



People that Deliver Hosts

The PtD Global Indaba in Bangkok

(Source: An Article by George Bray, IFPW Foundation)

IFPW Foundation, represented by George Bray, VP of Programs and Services, attended the annual People that Deliver (PTD) Indaba in Bangkok, Thailand March 6-8 along with over 250 international global health advocates, supply chain executives, and representatives of NGOs, all focused on strengthening the world's healthcare systems. People that Deliver is the global leader in Human Resources (HR) and supply chain management with the goal of creating a competent, supported, and adequately staffed health supply chain workforce that is deployed across both public and private sectors. The annual PTD Indaba is designed to bring people together to focus on improving supply chains in low- and middle-income countries specifically through capacity building and investments in human resources. This year's Indaba hosted numerous speaker presentations, panel discussions, breakout sessions, and workshops, all focused on building human capacity where it is needed most.



IFPW Foundation's George Bray participates in a panel discussion at PtD's Global Indaba Conference

IFPW Foundation contributes to human capacity building through the ongoing support of the STEP Leadership program by its members. STEP Leadership, a six-month transformational leadership program, is built around four weeks of online preparation and a five-day in-person workshop, which is then followed by a three-to-four-month engagement by private sector coaches from the IFPW membership who support participants in making organizational changes and systemic improvements. These improvements are built around a Transformation Challenge, a capstone project selected by the participant while in the face-to-face workshop. Both manufacturer and wholesaler members of IFPW have contributed coaches to numerous STEP implementations, including the most

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- ◆ Earlier this month, Delhi (India) Police arrested 10 individuals as part of a high-profile raid against a crime syndicate responsible for running an interstate fake medicine distribution scheme. The "Anti-Gangster" squad, which spearheaded the raid, seized multiple crores worth of fake medicines used to treat a wide range of conditions, including diabetes, asthma and bacterial infections. A 2022 study by anti-counterfeit organization ASPA found that sales of counterfeit or substandard medical products increased by 47% from 2020 to 2021 alone.
- ◆ Representatives from the Nigerian government agency responsible for overseeing product imports, **NAFDAC**, joined pharmaceutical industry stakeholders in Lagos last month to announce several actions aimed at curbing the sale of unsafe drugs. In addition to cracking down on retailers and wholesalers, NAFDAC Director General *Prof Mojisola Adeyeye* further stated the agency would be working with industry partners to help bolster the integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain, including by upholding more stringent standards for the procurement of raw materials.
- ◆ Growing global demand for new weight loss drugs like **Novo Nordisk's Ozempic** has led to a rise in falsified and substandard knockoffs entering the market. According to the **Partnership for Safe Medicines**, patients in 16 countries have experienced adverse effects from taking fake versions of the drug. In recent months, both the **WHO** and US officials have issued statements expressing their concerns over the risks these illicit drugs pose for patients. These declarations follow a warning issued to patients and providers by the **European**

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IQVIA Institute Releases Adult Vaccination Report

(Source: IQVIA Institute Press Release)

The IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science has release its "Trends in Global Adult Vaccination: A View from Five Cities".

The report research uses five city-level case studies across four countries to highlight the importance of local data by investigating the differences in vaccination uptake at the sub-city level and identifying associations with known determinants.

Severe limitations in data availability in much of the world, notably low- or middle-income countries (LMICs) preclude certain regions and restrict the choice of cities for this report. Despite limitations in the data for these selected cities, the existing data allow for a nuanced understanding of vaccination consumption trends and complement information on vaccine reimbursement and administration. This research is intended to

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IFPW Foundation's George Bray and some of the participants at PtD's Global Indaba Conference

recent regional offering which occurred in Thailand in November. The STEP Program was showcased during the Indaba and was very well-received by potential future supporters and implementing partners.

The long-term goal of STEP is to make impactful and lasting change in the countries who invest by sending participants. Long term success will be measured on the impact of the Transformation Challenges so measurement and evaluation of the progress that participants make once back in their home countries is the real measurement of success.

The demand for the STEP Leadership program continues to accelerate and programs are planned for Cambodia and India in 2024. *If you, or someone within your company is interested in learning more or interested in becoming personally involved, please contact george.bray@ifpwfoundation.org or chris.goetz@ifpwfoundation.org.*

IQVIA Institute Report (cont.)...

serve as a potential pilot for future city-level case studies in other regions.

Five cities were selected for this pilot: Bangkok, Brussels, Chicago, Manchester, and New York City. These cities were chosen based on global representativeness and data availability. Most of these also belong to the WHO's global network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities. This research was undertaken with a combination of local IQVIA vaccine data assets, public vaccination data, and public and third-party socio economic and sociodemographic data.

The report concludes that global collaborations that leverage the learnings from COVID-19, such as the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing, present crucial opportunities to increase the priority of and optimize the use of adult vaccines. Additionally, sub-city level research showcases the importance of urban policies, such as access to a pharmacy, in ensuring equitable access to adult vaccines. Demographic factors can also impact vaccination coverage; accounting for these factors will be important for achieving equity for vaccine use.

To download the report, please visit <https://www.iqvia.com/insights/the-iqvia-institute/reports-and-publications/reports/trends-in-global-adult-vaccination>.

Around the Globe (cont.)...

Medicines Agency in October 2023 about the dangers of falsified *Ozempic* pens.

- Counterfeit pharmaceuticals continue to pose “a substantial threat to the EU and affect most, if not all, Member States,” according to **Europol**. Substandard and falsified drugs are reported all over the world and it is estimated that these medicines may constitute as little as one percent of the trade in developed countries to as much as 30 percent of the market in certain Asian, African and Latin American countries. In its latest report on counterfeit goods, Europol revealed that the trade in falsified pharmaceuticals is continuing to grow; in 2020 counterfeit medications were the seventh most commonly seized counterfeit product, where in 2019 they were tenth. This rise was driven by the number of customs procedures associated with counterfeit drugs more than tripling from 192 in 2019 to 600 in 2020. Europol noted there had been some change in the origin of the counterfeits seized in 2020. Where in 2019 they primarily came from China, India and Singapore, in 2020 the majority came from China and Turkey, with Vietnam also contributing to a lesser extent.¹ However, Iran, Switzerland and the US are key transit points for falsified medications entering the EU.

- Scientists have identified a persistent change in a handful of blood proteins in people with long Covid that indicates that an important part of their immune system remains on high alert for months after an acute infection. The findings, published in the journal *Science*, could help explain what causes the persistent fatigue, brain fog and other debilitating symptoms of long Covid, as well as pave the way for diagnostic tests and potentially, a long-awaited treatment. The study followed 113 Covid patients for up to one year after they were first infected, along with 39 healthy controls. At the six-month mark, 40 patients had developed long Covid symptoms.

- This year *World Health Day* (April 7th) will spotlight ‘*My Health, My Right*’, as in a world witnessing multiple crises, from diseases to disasters to conflicts and climate change, realizing people’s right to health is now more important than ever. “Realizing the right to health for all means creating conditions where everyone, everywhere can access high quality health facilities, services and goods that prioritize people’s needs, understanding and dignity. It also means a full set of rights that enable people to live healthily, such as education, safe water and food, nutritious food, adequate housing, good working and environmental conditions and information—or the underlying determinants of health,” said **Saima Wazed**, Regional Director, **WHO South-East Asia Region**. To fulfil the right to health, both health services and the underlying determinants should be available, accessible, acceptable and of adequate quality, the Regional Director emphasized.

(Sources: Benzinga, European Pharmaceutical Review, NBC News, and Press Releases)