



Leading, advancing, empowering: IAPO's Strategic Plan 2015–2017

I am delighted to present the IAPO Strategic Plan for 2015–2017. This has been prepared after consultation with our members and other stakeholders, and distils into a few paragraphs the aims of IAPO over the next few years. We continue with the key theme of Universal Health Coverage, which we know from the enthusiastic engagement at the 2014 Global Patients Congress is a theme which unites our members, large and small, from all over the world. And we also recognise that health financing will continue to be a concern and a challenge to healthcare systems internationally, whatever their stage of development, and the patient voice needs to be heard loud and clear when decisions about financing are being made.

My thanks to the Board, staff, and all IAPO's supporters for the commitment you bring to IAPO's work and I look forward to working with you over the next years to bring about IAPO's vision, that patients throughout the world are at the centre of healthcare.

KP Tsang, IAPO Chair

About IAPO

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) is a unique global alliance representing patients of all nationalities, across all disease areas, and promoting patient-centred healthcare around the world. IAPO brings a global patient voice to healthcare decision-making based on the belief that patients' voices are amplified and heard effectively when patients' organizations are linked, can share best practices and practical strategies, and are connected with resources. Our members are patients' organizations working at the international, regional, national and local levels to represent and support patients, their families and carers. A patient is a person with any chronic disease, illness, syndrome, impairment or disability.

IAPO was established in 1999 and, as of September 2014, has a membership of 250 organizations across over 60 countries. IAPO is in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) and has official partnerships with the International Council of Nurses (ICN), International Hospital Federation (IHF), International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and World Medical Association (WMA) amongst many others.

IAPO's vision and mission

IAPO's **vision** is that patients throughout the world are at the centre of healthcare.

IAPO's **mission** is to help build patient-centred healthcare worldwide by:

- Realizing active partnerships with patients' organizations, maximizing their impact through capacity building
- Advocating internationally with a strong patients' voice on relevant aspects of healthcare policy, with the aim of influencing international, regional and national health agendas and policies
- Building cross-sector alliances and working collaboratively with like-minded medical and health professionals, policy makers, academics, researchers and industry representatives

IAPO's activities include:

- Advocacy at global level on relevant aspects of healthcare policy to influence international health agendas and policies
- Providing membership services, including capacity building and shared learning, to its members, who are patient-led organizations all across the world
- Empowering its members to undertake their own advocacy at regional and national meetings
- Providing opportunities for stakeholders from across the health sector to meet and work together to advance patient involvement in health services and decision-making
- Research on emerging areas of interest to patients' organizations and to underpin the evidence base for showing the importance of patient involvement to public health

Over the next three years, the key theme underpinning all our objectives will be universal health coverage from the patients' perspective, recognising that the three pillars of universal health coverage are all important, but that financing will be the global priority over the next three years, and IAPO wants to ensure that the patient voice is raised as high in this pillar as it is in equity and quality.

Our strategic objectives for 2015–2017 are:

1) Leading the patient voice on global healthcare issues

IAPO will take the lead on identifying key issues in healthcare on which to advocate at all levels of decision-making. IAPO will undertake research, produce briefings and toolkits for its members, and ensure the patient voice is heard in global, regional and national fora. IAPO will speak out on these key issues with a clear voice and seek to make its voice strongest where it can have most impact.

2) Advancing patient engagement

IAPO will develop and disseminate models, drawn from our membership experience, of effective patient engagement at all levels of healthcare decision-making. IAPO will work to show how patient engagement leads to more effective healthcare.

3) Empowering the global patient movement

IAPO will build the ability of its members to understand the key healthcare issues identified, and advocate effectively and clearly. This programme will include briefings, resources, webinars, and opportunities for face to face sharing and learning from each other at events. IAPO will also strengthen its regional networks, recognising that each region will have different ways to develop, and will be led by members in each region to enable appropriate IAPO support. In addition, none of the work of IAPO or the delivery of its goals can happen without the organization itself being strong, sustainable and committed. This objective will include strengthening IAPO itself as a responsible global organization working to achieve its vision and mission.

International Alliance of Patients' Organizations

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