



International Federation of **Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations**  
Fédération Internationale de l'Industrie du **Médicament**  
Federación Internacional de la Industria del **Medicamento**

## News Release

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### **Swedish FASS Website Demonstrates New Technology to Allow National Websites to Provide Clinical Trial Searches, in Their Own Language, Using the IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal**

Geneva, 16 May 2007 – The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA) and its Swedish member association LIF have created a new technology platform, which enables a country-specific website to allow its visitors to search for online clinical trial information, in their national language, using the powerful and proven IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal ([www.ifpma.org/clinicaltrials](http://www.ifpma.org/clinicaltrials)) search engine. The new integrated search facility is being pioneered in Sweden's FASS medicines website ([www.fass.se](http://www.fass.se)), and will permit Swedish doctors, pharmacists and patients to search easily for clinical trials information, by entering search criteria in Swedish.

Mr. Fred Hassan, President of the IFPMA and Chairman and CEO of Schering-Plough said: “This new IFPMA platform is another contribution to transparency and access to information for stakeholders. It is a tool that promises to help physicians further enhance their care for patients, and to help patients further enhance their own healthcare understanding and literacy.”

Thanks to the IFPMA-LIF technology platform, the FASS site now provides visitors with a Swedish-language clinical trials search interface, allowing them to enter multiple search criteria in Swedish. The search is then executed by the IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal, which will generate short summaries and links for relevant trial information. Like most online clinical trials information, the summaries are usually in English. However, the new platform will help Swedish visitors to understand the summaries by providing Swedish-language explanations for a wide range of key English medical terms.

Dr. Harvey Bale, Director General of the IFPMA, commented: “The IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal provides an easy-to-use way of searching for clinical trials information in English, French, German, Japanese and Spanish. With our new technology package, we can help other sites to provide a similar search capability in any languages covered by the MedDRA or MeSH medical dictionaries. Medical, patient and other organizations running health information sites should consider the benefits of enabling their users to search for relevant clinical trials information. Organizations interested in this possibility should contact Dr. Laetitia Bigger, [l.bigger@ifpma.org](mailto:l.bigger@ifpma.org).

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**About the IFPMA:**

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations is the global non-profit NGO representing the research-based pharmaceutical, biotech and vaccine sectors. Its members comprise 25 leading international companies and 46 national and regional industry associations covering developed and developing countries. The industry's R&D pipeline contains hundreds of new medicines and vaccines being developed to address global disease threats, including cancer, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and malaria. The IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal ([www.ifpma.org/clinicaltrials](http://www.ifpma.org/clinicaltrials)) and IFPMA activities in Health Partnerships ([www.ifpma.org](http://www.ifpma.org)) help make the industry's activities more transparent. The IFPMA strengthens patient safety by improving risk assessment of medicines and combating their counterfeiting. It also provides the secretariat for the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).

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