



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

News Release

New IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal Upgrade allows Patients and Physicians to Search Faster, More Precisely and in Five Languages

Advanced Search & Dictionary Functions help to increase Transparency of Industry-sponsored Clinical Trials for New Medicines

Geneva, 22 March 2006 – To improve further public access to pharmaceutical industry clinical trial data, the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA) today launched the second stage of the IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal – <http://www.ifpma.org/clinicaltrials>. Developed in conjunction with information technology leader the IBM Corporation, the portal is the first internet search engine constructed to link to on-line information about on-going and completed clinical trials sponsored by research-based pharmaceutical companies worldwide. In line with the pharmaceutical industry's commitment to increase the transparency of clinical trials, this latest development of the Portal focuses on helping more people to use the IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal and making it an easier unique locator for them to use.

For the first time, IFPMA and IBM have made it possible for users to input search criteria for clinical trials in German, French, Japanese and Spanish, as well as English, thus extending its usability to millions more people worldwide. Additional languages will be considered later, depending on the usage pattern of the Portal.

“Furthermore,” said Dr. Harvey E. Bale, Director General of the IFPMA, “since many people are unfamiliar with medical expressions, we have improved the search facility so that it suggests synonyms for medical conditions and helps to correct misspelled words, including the names of medicines. With the Stage 2 development, the Portal's reach is greatly extended, because it now searches for trials corresponding both to the term entered by a layperson and its synonyms.”

Dr. Bale continued: “To help visitors to the Portal to get to what they are looking for more quickly, the Portal now makes it easier to perform multiple criteria searches and allows searches to be qualified by geographical area. In this way, anyone can program the search engine to look for trials which are underway in the area where you live, in the disease that interests you.”

Ms. Janet Voûte, CEO of the World Heart Federation, today commented: “By allowing entry of search criteria in a range of languages, the updated IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal will encourage more doctors and patients to inform themselves about clinical trials targeting heart conditions and other serious illnesses.”

Mr. Albert van der Zeijden, Chair of the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) said: “The IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal is a valuable resource which can facilitate access to information about clinical trials, helping patients and carers to make informed decisions about treatment options. Access to accurate and timely information is a key principle of patient-centered healthcare, as outlined in IAPO's newly launched Declaration on Patient-Centered Healthcare.”

The launch of the second stage of the IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal also marks the start of a two-month web advertising campaign on Google and Yahoo. People inputting search terms related to clinical trials, diseases and medical conditions into these two search engines will be provided with a link to the IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal.

The amount of clinical trial information accessible via the IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal has increased significantly. The Stage 1 Portal launched in September last year indexed some 26,000 individual pages. The Stage 2 Portal already indexes more than 88,000 – and the number will continue to grow. The number of sites that post clinical trials information to which the Portal links has also increased, from ten sites when launched to fifteen today.

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About the IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal:

The IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal is a major pharmaceutical industry initiative designed to increase the transparency of clinical trials by providing a convenient “one-stop-shop” for published clinical trials information. The Portal provides links to relevant on-line sources of clinical trial information. These include individual pharmaceutical company sites, sites run by third parties working on behalf of these companies, pharmaceutical industry association resources, such as the US pharmaceutical industry association (PhRMA) site www.clinicalstudyresults.org and government sites which routinely carry details of industry trials, such as the US National Library of Medicine’s www.clinicaltrials.gov. Other on-line clinical trial information resources, such as the European Union’s planned Europharm facility, may be linked to as and when they become available.

The Portal searches for two categories of information. One is listings (registries) of on-going clinical trials, providing access to basic information, including: brief title, description in lay terms, trial phase, trial type (e.g. interventional), trial status, trial purpose (treatment / diagnosis / prevention), intervention type (e.g. drug / vaccine), condition or disease, key eligibility criteria (including gender & age), location of trial and contact information. The other category is results of completed clinical trials, which are made available in a standard, non-promotional, summary format by various on-line databases.

The IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal helps to fulfill the commitment made by the research-based pharmaceutical industry in its “Joint Position on the Disclosure of Clinical Trial Information via Clinical Trial Registries and Databases”, issued in January 2005. This joint statement was developed by the IFPMA, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA), the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) and Canada’s Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), to provide a coherent industry blueprint for improving clinical trial transparency.

Note: All the clinical trials information accessible via the Portal is hosted on other sites. The Portal does not host information itself and it does not translate information which is hosted on other sites. The clinical trials information to which the Portal links is generally provided in English.

About the IFPMA:

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations is the global non-profit NGO representing research-based pharmaceutical, biotech and vaccine companies and national industry associations in 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 and the IFPMA Health Partnerships Survey 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 Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).

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