THE HISTORY OF APPOINTING

WORLD PHARMACISTS DAY 25 September

Halil Tekiner *

* Assoc. Prof. Dr., Department of the History of Pharmacy and Ethics Erciyes University Faculty of Pharmacy, Melikgazi 38039, Kayseri, Turkey; htekiner@erciyes.edu.tr

INTRODUCTION

Pharmacists have observed World Pharmacists Day on September 25 for the last seven years. This special day not only brings attention to pharmacists around the world through a series of activities and pharmacy-related campaigns but also successfully serves to promote the role of pharmacists in improving health outcomes and patient safety. This day has been officially coordinated by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), a non-governmental professional body representing over three million pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. However, in contrast to the popularity World Pharmacists Day enjoys in many countries, the history of appointing this day has remained unknown to both the pharmaceutical community and the public.



| Gmail | Halil Tekiner <haliltekiner@gmail.com></haliltekiner@gmail.com> | M Gmail | Halil Tekiner <haliltekiner@gmail.com< th=""></haliltekiner@gmail.com<> | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Iternational Pharmacy Day | | International Pharmacy Day | | |
| Tekiner <haliltekiner@gmail.com> : Myriah Lesko <myriah@fip.org> Myriah, m really sorry to disturb you so often, but I need your help once mor</myriah@fip.org></haliltekiner@gmail.com> | 5 Mayıs 2009 18:48 | Myriah Lesko <myriah@fip.org> Alıcı: Halil Tekiner <haliltekiner@gmail.com> Cc: Luc Besancon <luc@fip.org></luc@fip.org></haliltekiner@gmail.com></myriah@fip.org> | 6 Mayıs 2009 14:20 | |
| ticle about the national day of pharmacy in Turkey of which I will sug e end. o could you please confirm if the foundation date of the FIP was Sep <i>llowing resource</i> via the books.google.com: <i>Grotius: annuaire interna ublisher: M. Nijhoff., 1916</i>) different resources including the Urdang's very famous book on the is "founded in 1912," without any exact date. I have also found some J1, mainly in French, that talk about the foundation process, howeve s well. I also checked the FIP statue which has nothing but a few ser elieve that it requires to be confirmed. uring my research I have also come across an interesting book publis ight be somewhere in the library of the FIP. If it doesn't cause any in at least the part about the foundation - of this book below? ook: Cinquante ans de Fédération Internationale Pharmaceutique uthor: D A Wittop Koning ublisher: Fédération Internationale Pharmaceutique, 1962 would also be great if you could kindly provide some interesting ephe ublished in pharmaceutical journals talking about the foundation of the ke always I greatly appreciate for your generous help. est wishes, alil | tember 25, 1912. (I've found this date in the tional, Author: Permanent Court of Arbitration, history of pharmacy, this is simply mentioned interesting documents published in 1910 and r none of them mention about any exact date tence expression about its history. So I shed by the Federation itself in 1962, which inconvenience may I kindly ask to have a copy a, 1912-1962 emeras, like photos, brochures, or news | actually copied Luc in on the email, however, as searching in the attic!) on FIP history and the hi- be honest I am not sure of the exact date beyon | opreciate the good work we are getting done together. I have I know he has being doing a little investigating (and a lot of istory of pharmacy and he may be better informed to help you. To ad 1912 myself! of your assistance. IF not, we will try to track down the | |
| 1 Gmail | Halil Tekiner <haliltekiner@gmail.com></haliltekiner@gmail.com> | M Gmail | Halil Tekiner <haliltekiner@gmail.com< td=""></haliltekiner@gmail.com<> | |
| ternational Pharmacy Day | | International Pharmacy Day | | |
| Ic Besancon <luc@fip.org> cl: Myriah Lesko <myriah@fip.org>, Halil Tekiner <haliltekiner@gmail. The constituent meeting was held in Den Haag, 25-26 September 19 So I guess it might be better to quote these two days If you need some bibliographical references: Wittop Koning D.A. 50th Anniversary of FIP. 1912-1962. Journal mone will also scan you and send you a copy of this article which is availa send the English version). Best regards</haliltekiner@gmail. </myriah@fip.org></luc@fip.org> | 12. And lead to the creation of FIP. dial de Pharmacie 1962 (5): p181-219. | research-published by the British Society for the International Pharmacy Day. By doing this I aim t historians at an international level. I sent a person Pharmacy Working Group who totally supported to | macy Historian, an international journal for the history of pharmacy History of Pharmacy, about celebrating September 25 as the to promote this idea and to gain support of pharmacy nal e-mail to M. Jacques Gravé, Head of the FIP History of this idea, and also spoke with Mr. Serif Boyaci, international Association and asked his support to officially put this idea in the | |
| Luc 2. d: Takinar's lipisons with the EID officials | | So what I need to know to complete my article is how, when, and where? What is the official opinio | the upcoming process. Who will decide on approving this date, on of FIP to celebrate such a day, may I refer to Mr. Midha or Mr. eir opinions with a couple of sentences. I know I ask too much but | |

PROPOSAL FOR APPOINTING SEPTEMBER 25 AS WORLD PHARMACISTS DAY

The idea of appointing September 25 as World Pharmacists Day was first suggested in the last paragraph of an article written by Halil Tekiner, the author of this poster and former public relations officer (2007/2008) of the FIP Young Pharmacists' Group, with the following sentences:

"It is a pity that we do not have one common day for pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists during which we can celebrate our profession together throughout the world. Therefore, here, I humbly suggest that we come together to celebrate an International Pharmacy Day on September 25. (...) It is my sincere wish that this humble proposal be considered by the relevant authorities before the Federation's [FIP's] centennial in 2012."

This article, entitled "Turkey celebrates National Pharmacy Day," was published on the FIP's website on May 14, 2009, to promote the 69th FIP Congress to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in the same year. The article is still promoted online at the FIP's website (1), and the full text of this article is available there as well (2).

WHY SEPTEMBER 25?

To overcome the problem of appointing a day that the great majority of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists of different countries around the world could agree upon, without any ethnic, religious, geographic, or other discriminatory connotations, Tekiner proposed celebrating the official formation day of the FIP in 1912 as an "International Pharmacy Day."

Fig. 2a-d: lekiner's liaisons with the FIP officials regarding the formation day of the FIP and the convenience of this day for celebrating an International Pharmacy Day.

| nternational Pharmacy Day | |
|--|---|
| lalil Tekiner <haliltekiner@gmail.com> Ilıcı: Myriah Lesko <myriah@fip.org></myriah@fip.org></haliltekiner@gmail.com> | 21 Temmuz 2009 09:1 |
| Hello Myriah, | |
| I hope you enjoy your summer and this e-mail finds you very well. | |
| Currently I am writing a short article for the <i>Pharmacy Historian</i> , an international research-published by the British Society for the History of Pharmacy, about cele International Pharmacy Day. By doing this I aim to promote this idea and to gain historians at an international level. I sent a personal e-mail to M. Jacques Gravé, Pharmacy Working Group who totally supported this idea, and also spoke with M relations coordinator of the Turkish Pharmacists Association and asked his supp agenda of pharmacists. So I believe that the TPA will give a proposal on this issues. | ebrating September 25 as the support of pharmacy , Head of the FIP History of Ir. Serif Boyaci, international port to officially put this idea in the |
| So what I need to know to complete my article is the upcoming process. Who wi how, when, and where? What is the official opinion of FIP to celebrate such a day Hoek if any of them would like to kindly share their opinions with a couple of sent this is the only way that I can be accurate in my article. | y, may I refer to Mr. Midha or Mr. |
| I thank you thousands of times. | |

ATTEMPTS THROUGH THE TURKISH PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION

In his e-mail dated June 19, 2009, following up on previous phone calls, Tekiner officially asked the Research and Development Department of the Turkish Pharmacists' Association (TPA) and the TPA's coordinator of international relations, Mr. Serif Boyacı, for their institutional support. Tekiner also explained his motivation behind the proposal in great detail during Mr. Boyacı's visit to Kayseri for the 36th Term Third Interregional Pharmacy Meeting of the TPA, hosted by the Kayseri Chamber of Pharmacists on July 2-4,2009.

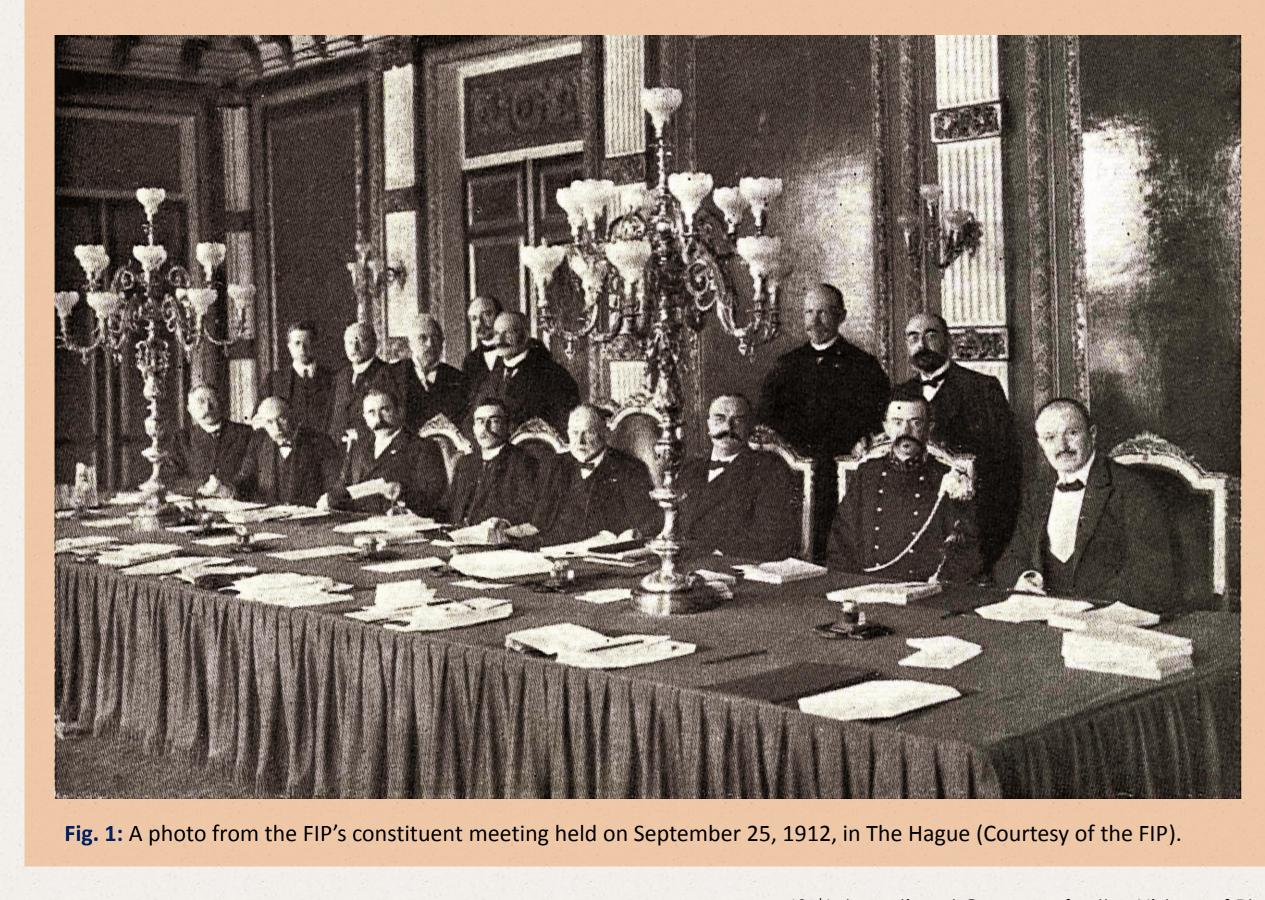
Many greetings and best wishes

ASKING THE OPINIONS OF THE HISTORIANS OF PHARMACY

In order to raise awareness of the idea among historians of pharmacy, Tekiner also communicated with several names including Prof. Afife Mat (Turkey); Prof. Axel Helmstaedter (Germany); Prof. Greg Higby (USA); Mr. Jacques Gravé (France), president of the FIP Working Group on the History of Pharmacy (Fig.3a-b); and many other academics including Prof. Hüsnü Can Başer (Turkey), former president of the Turkish Academy of Pharmacy; and asked for their opinions and suggestions.

After receiving responses supporting his idea, Tekiner submitted a short note entitled "When shall we celebrate an International Pharmacy Day?" to a group of other pharmacists and historians of pharmacy including Mr. Ainley Wade (UK), editor of the Pharmaceutical Historian. Thanks to Mr. Wade's positive approach and offer of this idea to a larger readership, Tekiner's note was published on the back cover page of Pharmaceutical Historian (4) (Fig.4). Later, this note received limited interest in international pharmaceutical media and some Turkish pharmaceutical magazines (5).

Considering the fact that the FIP not only represents pharmacists but also pharmaceutical scientists—as is explicitly stated in its official documents—Tekiner thought that the day should be named "Pharmacy Day" instead of "Pharmacists Day" and should be paired with the word "International," attributable to the Federation's original name. After researching historical references and conducting an archival search at the FIP Bureau in The Hague, which was helped by the efforts of the FIP project coordinator Mr. Luc Besançon (currently the CEO of the FIP), Tekiner found out that in the afternoon of September 25, 1912, the FIP's foundation meeting was held in the Trêveszaal of the Dutch government, in The Hague (3) (Fig.1 and 2a-d).



| | – On Tue, 7/14/09, Jacques Gravé <jacquesgrave@gmail.com> wrote:</jacquesgrave@gmail.com> | When Shall We Celebrate an International Pharmacy Day? Halil Tekiner, MSc Pharm, BSc (Turkey) | Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) i Netherlands. ¹ I am glad that this suggestion welcomed by the FIP officials and |
|---|--|---|---|
| M Gmail | From: Jacques Gravé <jacquesgrave@gmail.com> Subject: Internacional pharmacy day To: "TEKINER Halil" <tekiner03@yahoo.com> To: "TEKINER Halil" <tekiner03@yahoo.com></tekiner03@yahoo.com></tekiner03@yahoo.com></jacquesgrave@gmail.com> | Last May, Ms Myriah Lesko from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) kindly asked me to write a short article about the history of Turkey's National Pharmacy Day, May 14, to be published as a part of promotion of the upcoming FIP Congress in Istanbul. Writing about this subject made me curious | has recently been proposed by the T Association (TEB) to be discussed General Assembly. However, I personally believe should also be discussed among pf If they agree on a specific date – v |
| International Pharmacy Day | Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2000, 0.11 | about whether other countries commemorated such a day. I conducted a research on this and was slightly disappointed to find that not much was being done elsewhere. Although some nations host pharmacy- | not – that would of course be easi appropriate for decision-makin appointing such a day. Any ide contributions from pharmacy his highly appreciated. |
| Halil Tekiner <haliltekiner@gmail.com></haliltekiner@gmail.com> | J'ai été tres neureux de récorre idée d'une "Journée Internationale de la rinde de | related days, weeks, and even a month under different names, these events focus on patients, pharmacy | 0.1.11 |
| Alıcı: helmstaedter@govi.de | lissocion de l'appelei lo rore ante protección (filais succession de pharmaciens | students, or those who seek a career in pharmaceutical industry; none of these events focused on the pharmacist him/herself. As per my understanding, | Author's address: haliltekiner@gma Reference 1. Koning WDA. 50th Anniversary of |
| Dear Dr. Helmstaedter, | de nos contreles. Cette justo de la pharmacie ne pourtaina que | these events are not in line with our own concept of National Pharmacy Day apart from Turkey. Few countries including the United States, Canada, and the | Journal mondial de Pharmacie 1962; (|
| I hope this e-mail finds you well, and you enjoy the | La date est sans dotte au moment de la fête des Saint Come de caracter de la profession | Czech Republic hold a true National Pharmacy Day in this context. I also continued my search for an International Pharmacy Day until I was | |
| I am writing to ask your personal opinion and sup celebrated by pharmacists & pharmaceutical scie | quid des autres croyante, puisqu'elle se situe au premier se situaient autour de cette date. | informed by the FIP that such a concept did not exist. While we hold international celebrations of other professions, e.g., | |
| In fact this idea has come up with my attached an publicised at the website of the International Phan | De toutes laçois, je rençais. Jean Parrot n'est plus President de totato, au niveau Français. Jean Parrot n'est plus President de totato, au niveau français. | Secretaries' Week (March 21 to 26), International Nurses' Day (May 12) and World Teachers' Day (October 5), it is a pity that we do not have one common day for pharmacists and pharmaceutical | . K. LOANE |
| fact that this day should have equal value for each 1912 witnessed the official formation of the FIP in | Présidente, Isabelle Adenot, qui sera completentent à la FIP. Je suis très heureux de vous rencontrer prochainement à la FIP. J'avais prévu avec le prof Mat Afife de faire visiter un musée de la pharmacie le 7 septembre à Istanbul. J'avais prévu avec le prof Mat Afife de faire visiter un musée de la pharmacie le 7 septembre à Istanbul. vais la recontacter car je n'ai pas de nouvelles, mais je pense qu'elle est très occupée. | scientists during which we can celebrate our profession together throughout the world. This day can also serve to remind people of the invaluable service performed | - pener en r |
| the FIP officials, however, I personally believe that they can agree on one specific date - either this or | Touto mon amus | by pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists as an integral part of the health care team. Therefore I humbly suggested | |
| decision making authorities to appoint this day. | | in my aforementioned article that we could come together to celebrate an International Pharmacy Day on September 25, since | VI. A AND A HANDARD T |
| Therefore I wonder if you could please let me know | Jacques Gravé | this day in 1912 witnessed the official | A photo from FIP's constituent meeting he |
| to the agenda of pharmacy historians perhaps by b Newsletter. | Président "Sauvegarde du Patrimoine Pharmaceutique" 4 avenue Ruysdaël | Pharmaceutical Historian Back Issues | ptember 25, 1912, in The Hague. (Courtes |
| I thank you in advance, and look forward to hearing | 75008 Paris | Complete volumes of four issues: Volume 36 (2006 available for £8 UK or £10 Overseas (including post and The Indexes for 1967 to 1995, 1996 to 2000 and 2001 to | nacking) |
| Sincerely, | jacquesgrave@gmail.com | www.bshp.org under Publications. Orders to: Peter Homan, 3 The Ridings, Epsom, Surrey, Email: peter.homan@lineone.net Cheques, Banker's Orr Units of Pherman Program Program. | lers, etc. to be made payable to the Briti |
| Halil Tekiner | | History of Pharmacy. Payment can only be accepted in H | |
| | | ISSN: 0079-1393 Indexed in M © British Society for the I Typeset and Produced by Ralph | |

Fig. 3a-b: An example of lekiner's letter to the historians of pharmacy around the world and the response of Mr. Jacques Gravé (France), president of the FIP Working Group on the History of Pharmacy.

Fig. 4: Tekiner's note entitled "When shall we celebrate an International Pharmacy Day?" was published in 2009.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 25 AS WORLD PHARMACISTS DAY

At the Council meeting of the FIP Congress, held on September 3-8, 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey, the TPA—as a member organization eligible to make motions at council meetings—suggested celebrating World Pharmacists Day annually on September 25. This proposal was unanimously accepted, and hence the day came to be celebrated internationally. Each year the FIP welcomes a new theme to showcase pharmacists and their positive effect on health. The theme of 2017 has been decided as follows: "From research to health care: your pharmacist is at your service."

> NOTE: This poster can be viewed online by scanning the following QR code.



REFERENCES

1. Tekiner, Halil. "Turkey celebrates National Pharmacy Day." International Pharmaceutical Federation. May 14, 2009. http://www.fip.org/www/index.php?page=news_publications&news=newsitem&newsitem=66

2. Tekiner, Halil. "The history of Turkey's National Pharmacy Day." International Pharmaceutical Federation. May 14, 2009. http://www.fip.org/files/fip/news/TekinerPharmacyDay-FIP09.pdf

3. Wittop-Koning, Dirk Arnold. "50th anniversary of FIP (1912–1962)." Journal mondial de pharmacie 1962;5(2):181-219. **4. Tekiner, Halil.** "When shall we celebrate an International Pharmacy Day?" Pharmaceutical Historian 2009;39(3):50. Also available online at https://www.academia.edu/7406312/When_shall we celebrate an international pharmacy day 5. Sandalcı, Mert. "25 Eylül Dünya Eczacılık Günü nereden çıktı? [Where did September 25 – World Pharmacists Day come from?]" Eczaci 2013;8(103):68-69. Also available online at https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/255d13 ac35bd91066a41efa0e19f0a8e2d583f.pdf

43rd International Congress for the History of Pharmacy, 12-15 September 2017, Warsaw, Poland