



International Geneva
Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

International Conference for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use | ICH

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

The International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) is a unique global health actor as it brings together the regulatory authorities and pharmaceutical industry to discuss various scientific and technical aspects of drug registration. Since its inception in 1990, ICH has gradually evolved to respond to the increasingly global processes of drug development. ICH's mission is to achieve greater harmonisation worldwide to ensure that safe, effective, and high quality medicines are developed and registered in the most resource-efficient manner.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- International harmonization of technical guidelines
- Registration of pharmaceuticals
- Access to medicines

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The harmonisation of technical guidelines regionally and globally benefits public health by providing safe and effective medicines faster and at a lower cost. The elimination of excessive steps of drug development accelerates the availability of new medicines for emerging and infectious diseases, as well as reduces the cost of development, thus providing a dual incentive for the drug developers. Harmonisation additionally fosters the development of more effective and easy-to-administer drugs for non-communicable diseases, and therefore improves public health on all fronts. ICH monitors and guides the harmonisation process, as well as develops standards to ensure the safety of new medicines. It also builds consensus between various public health partners, and fosters joint understanding and action for improved population health through access to medicines.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

In 2015 ICH was re-established as an association, thus being a legal entity under Swiss law. ICH is governed by an assembly comprised of all the members and a Management Committee (MC) which oversees the operational aspects. The MC has representatives from the six Founding Parties (EU, EFPIA, MHLW, JPMA, FDA, PhRMA), and from Swissmedic and Health Canada. The WHO and IFPMA participate as standing observers of the MC. The ICH Secretariat employs five staff members and is responsible for the daily management and coordination of ICH activities. The current Director of the Secretariat is Dr. Dawn Ronan.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

ICH is funded fully by the annual membership fees. The approved budget for 2017 is CHF 1.7 million.

PUBLICATIONS

All ICH guidelines are available free of charge on the ICH web site at:
<http://www.ich.org/ichnews/publications.html>

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