



COMMONWEALTH PHARMACY CONVENTION

18-20 November 2020

The 2020 Commonwealth Pharmacy Convention

Delivering on Quality Medicines: Connecting, Innovating and Transforming

#CwPC2020

Press release

Kigali, 9th March 2020

The **Rwanda Community Pharmacists Union** and the **Commonwealth Pharmacists Association** are delighted to announce their joint convention scheduled to take place **18th-20th November 2020 in Kigali, Rwanda**. This new initiative seeks to provide an innovative platform for education and sharing with stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth who have a role in the use of medicines. This event will bring together policy makers and practitioners to discuss and agree collaborative actions on high priority topics relating to medicines that impact on the ability to achieve and sustain universal health coverage (UHC) in the Commonwealth. This year the focus will be on 'delivering quality medicines'.

"Access to safe and effective medical coverage is essential to WHO goals. There is no universal health coverage, no health security without access to quality medicines."

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO, 27 September 2018

A voluntary association of [54 independent countries](#), the Commonwealth is home to 2.4 billion people (approximately 1/3 of the world's population). Reduction of health inequalities and achieving UHC is a key focus for all member states. For UHC to be achieved and sustained, there are multiple aspects that need to be addressed and invested in, one of which is access to safe and effective medical interventions, including medicines and vaccinations. As the experts in medicines, pharmacists are well placed to advise on policy and practice that relate to medicines at all levels in order to help strengthen quality supply chains and deliver quality medicines and the care related to these. One element that this event will address is the significant threat that substandard and falsified (SF) medicines pose to achieving effective UHC across the Commonwealth. Reports of SF medicines from the African region accounted for 42% of the 1,500 cases of SF products reported between 2013 and 2017. With antibiotics and antimalarials being the most commonly reported categories, it is clear to see not just the magnitude of the problem but also that the implications for endangering lives and causing significant morbidity and mortality.

As an active member of civil society, the [Commonwealth Pharmacists Association \(CPA\)](#) is the voice for over 1 million pharmacists around the Commonwealth, working in partnership with national pharmacy associations to improve the use of medicines throughout the Commonwealth. Rwanda will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in June 2020, and take on the chair for the next 2 years. The Rwandan government are

taking several actions to help tackle the issue of SF medicines and emerge as leaders in this field both regionally and globally. It is therefore fitting that the 2020 Commonwealth Pharmacy Convention (#CwPC2020) will be hosted by the [Rwanda Community Pharmacists Union](#) (RCPU) in partnership with the CPA. The event will be supported of the Rwanda Convention Bureau, Ministry of Health, National Pharmacy Council and partner organizations.

Join us to be a part of the largest event in the history of pharmacy in Rwanda, bringing together healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers, young pharmacists from across the Commonwealth to connect, innovate and transform through our collaborative focus on delivering on Quality Medicines’.

More details will follow shortly.