

MISSION STATEMENT

The World Federation of Incontinent Patients (WFIP) is a global federation of national patient organizations for sufferers of incontinence and related pelvic floor disorders. The Federation is dedicated to promoting worldwide the interests of such patients and patient associations. The Federation provides its individual member associations with the most comprehensive and up-to-date information and guidelines and educational resources. It seeks international co-operation and consensus via advocacy, public health education and contact with official and scientific bodies and other patient advocacy groups.

Representing...

Canada * Czech Republic * Denmark
France * Great Britain * Italy * Japan
Malta * Netherlands * Poland
Romania * Sweden * USA

WFIP is a full member of and liaises with:

IAPO - International Alliance of Patients' Organizations
www.patientsorganizations.org
EPPOSI - European Platform for Patients' Organizations,
Science and Industry
www.epposi.org
EFGCP - European Forum for Good Clinical Practice
www.EFGCP.be
EURORDIS - The Voice of Rare Diseases in Europe
www.Eurordis.org
CPC - Continence Promotion Committee of the International
Continence Society (ICS)
www.icsoffice.org
Currently applying for membership of the EPF - European
Patient Forum and Health First Europe
www.eu-patient.eu, www.healthfirsteurope.org

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT THE FEDERATION:

WFIP
Viale Orazio Flacco, 24
70124 Bari ITALY
Telephone: +39 080 5093389
Fax: +39 080 5619181
Email: finco@wfip.org
www.wfip.org

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

President	Lynne van Poelgeest-Pomfret (Interstitial Cystitis Patients' Association, the Netherlands - ICP)
Vice President	Zdenek Kucera (INCO FORUM, Czech Republic)
Vice President	Antoinette Zahra (Continence Care Association, Malta)
Secretary	Nancy Muller (National Association For Continence, USA)
Treasurer	Tomasz Michalek (UROCONTI, Poland)
Members	Jacky Cahill (The Canadian Continence Foundation) and Yoshinori Kasai (Japan Continence Action Society)
Ex-officio Member and Chairman of the Executive Council	Francesco Diomede (FINCO, Italy)
Medical Advisor	Diaa Rizk



Issued by WFIP ©2011



THE FEDERATION

A global assembly of patient
advocacy organizations working
on behalf of people living with
urinary and/or faecal incontinence
and related pelvic floor disorders



By Patients • About Patients • For Patients

BACKGROUND

The World Federation of Incontinent Patients (WFIP) is a non-profit organization established in 2005 to advocate on behalf of at least 50-100 million children and adults worldwide with urinary and/or faecal incontinence and related pelvic floor disorders. The figure could be as high as 260 million. The Federation serves as a global umbrella for national incontinence-related organizations as well as for residents of countries without any such representation.

WFIP was founded out of concern that, even across Europe, incontinence sufferers are not receiving the attention required from government agencies and policy makers, researchers, health institutions and health professionals, especially in terms of cure, prevention, rehabilitation, support and employment opportunities. The Federation seeks to represent all such individuals to ensure they receive the same rights and opportunities for quality of life as others. Its primary objectives are to strive for early diagnosis and effective treatment and to restore dignity for affected individuals, including support to their caregivers. The Federation's long-term goal is a significant reduction in the prevalence of incontinence worldwide which would in turn result in meaningful economic savings.



SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

The World Health Organization acknowledges that incontinence remains in the taboo sphere. One-third of the general public associates such problems with aging and thus something to accept. If left untreated, incontinence may provoke complications such as dermatitis, pressure ulcers, unpleasant odours as well as sexual dysfunction.

There is an urgent need to institute global quality standards for medical devices and products, including medications and absorbents to make an individual's incontinence more manageable.



Some countries lack freedom of choice to suit personal psychological and physical needs. In many countries, access to technologically innovative and superior products is restricted because policy makers do not provide sufficient funding to cover such costs. Medicines and other treatment options can play a major role in improving a person's "quality of life" and rehabilitation. A harmonized reimbursement policy for medical devices within the European Union is currently nonexistent, and cross-border care beyond the EU is totally lacking. The Federation is continuously striving to advocate for this. Cost issues and reimbursement policies can represent a major concern in terms of family expenditure, contributing to the guilt and depression associated with the condition.

A CALL TO ACTION: INTERNATIONAL BILL OF PATIENT RIGHTS



- ✓ Receive treatment
- ✓ Have unrestricted access to services
- ✓ Be given a correct and timely diagnosis
- ✓ Obtain up-to-date information
- ✓ Be given treatment options with freedom of choice
- ✓ Participate in the decision process
- ✓ Have access to quality therapy and medical care
- ✓ Have access to public toilets
- ✓ Have access to multidisciplinary care

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES OF THE FEDERATION ARE:

- 1) **Development of international guidelines for patients in preventive, lifestyle measures to reduce risks of incontinence where and when to seek help for symptoms;**
- 2) **Elevating the visibility of WFIP; and**
- 3) **Mentoring to give life to new patient advocacy groups in countries without a patient voice.**