

## The FIAPAC Newsletter, December 2017

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### **Editorial.**

Dear members and friends of FIAPAC,

It is now less than one year until the next FIAPAC international conference which will be held in Nantes France 14 -15 September 2018. The theme of the conference is 'liberating women: removing barriers and increasing access to safe abortion care'.

The conference programme has been designed to reflect this theme and will contain a mix of clinical, social, legal, policy, and advocacy elements to it. In particular this conference will have a French flair and a surprise novel opening plenary session that which we hope will set the scene for an open and friendly conference.

In addition to hearing from global experts there will be a high volume of presentations from new and established researchers. You can rest assured that there will also be an excellent gala celebration dinner in true French style.

Look forward to seeing you all there! A bientôt!

**Sharon Cameron**  
**FIAPAC President**

## FIAPAC Statutes and Rules

The Executive Committee and the Board are working on an update of the Statutes and Rules of FIAPAC. Although no major changes will be made, it is time to actualise the content from 2010 and to harmonise the English and the French versions. Members will be informed in due time.



## ESC Partnership

FIAPAC accepted the request from the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health (ESC) to become an official 'ESC Partner'.

This may facilitate opportunities for closer working and communication between our organisations, especially using new social media.

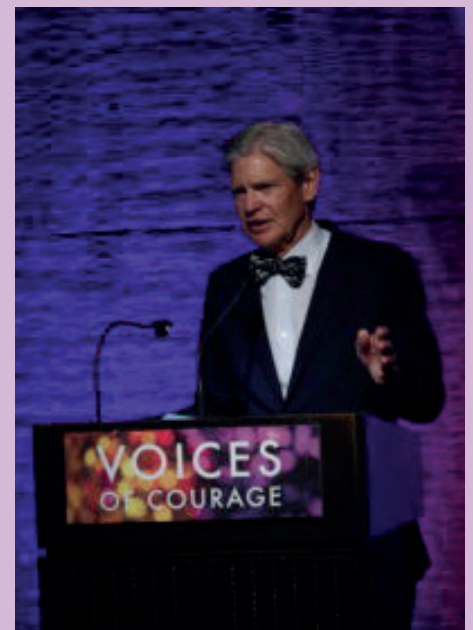
We feel this may offer mutual benefits such as:

- Links on each other's website
- Promote each other's events, publications and projects through website and social media
- Identify relevant experts to contribute articles to each other's publications
- Inform members about ESC funding for scientific projects and educational courses
- Sessions or speakers at each other's congresses/meetings
- Distribute surveys to each other's members
- Produce common statements for the professional community
- Collaboration, sharing and promotion of clinical standards and guidelines

Having a common interest, we are convinced that ESC Partnership may offer positive opportunities for both our organisations.

## *Voices of courage*

Dr. Philip Darney was honored with the William K. Rashbaum, MD Award for lifetime achievement. Over the course of his career, Dr. Darney served at the Centers for Disease Control, was a Resident and Assistant Professor at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and consulted with US-AID, governments, and NGOs around the world on public health.



# Liberating women - Removing barriers and increasing access to safe abortion care

13<sup>th</sup> FIAPAC CONFERENCE  
14-15 September 2018, Nantes, France  
[www.fiapac.org](http://www.fiapac.org)



## Mark your calendar!

13th FIAPAC Conference

Nantes, France – 14 and 15 September 2018

Liberating women - Removing barriers and increasing access to safe abortion care

Registration is open: [Information and form](#)

Conference venue: La Cité, Nantes Events Center, Nantes, France

Abstract submission: Deadline 15 April 2018

Submit your abstract now [online](#)

Programme coming soon!

## Membership 2018

Join FIAPAC or renew your 2018 membership!

The International Federation of Professional Abortion and Contraception Associates (FIAPAC) welcomes all professionals working in the field of family planning and/or abortion. Membership is on a calendar year basis (from 1 January to 31 December). The annual fee is 60 euro or 100 euro for two years (2018 and 2019).

*How to arrange your membership?*

By completing and submitting the membership form at: [fiapac.org/en/home/membership](http://fiapac.org/en/home/membership)

## FRANCE- Cytotec off the market in France from March 2018

It has been reported in Le Monde and the Lancet that the pharma company Pfizer will withdraw Cytotec (its brand of misoprostol) from the market in France on 1 March 2018. Read more here:

[www.safeabortionwomensright.org/france-cytotec-off-the-market-in-france-from-march-2018/](http://www.safeabortionwomensright.org/france-cytotec-off-the-market-in-france-from-march-2018/)

Source: Newsletter 30 Oct – 5 Nov 2017, International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion

## Youth AFC

### Peer contraception

The AFC Jeunes (French Association for Contraception Youth) is a department of the French Association for Contraception (AFC). The goal of the AFC jeunes is to 'peer education' i.e. young people teaching other young people (peers) about contraception. AFC are active at events that young people attend such as music festivals. Here AFC can discuss contraception with the festival-goers together with information on where they can obtain contraception.

AFC peers are young volunteers who undergo a formal interview training and have support from a professional. Trainers and peers are required to adhere to the values of freedom, independence, responsibility and confidentiality. The trainer and trainee have a duty of confidentiality regarding any information they hear. The AFC Jeunes has trained about 150 young people since 2008.

A European meeting was held in Paris on 30 September and 1 October. It allowed us to share our experiences in France with people from Belgium and Spain. This meeting confirmed the interest of working together. Projects are being developed

E. Aubény, President of French Association for Contraception  
Véronique Leralle, Responsible of AFC Jeunes

Photo by Leah Kelley from Pexels  
[www.pexels.com/photo/group-of-people-enjoying-music-concert-325521/](https://www.pexels.com/photo/group-of-people-enjoying-music-concert-325521/)







# International Safe Abortion Day 2017

#leavingnoonebehind

## International Safe Abortion Day September 28th, 2017

Overall, coverage of the day focused on the Statement by the OHCHR\* group of United Nations human rights experts calling on States across the world to repeal laws that criminalize and unduly restrict abortion and policies based on outdated stereotypes, to release all women in prison on abortion charges and to counter all stigma against abortion.

The experts also called for 28 September to become an official UN day for safe abortion worldwide, to help encourage governments to decriminalize abortion and provide reproductive health services in a legal, safe and affordable manner.

Read more here: [www.safeabortionwomensright.org/international-safe-abortion-day-2017-received-an-unprecedented-amount-of-attention-and-interest-from-journalists-around-the-world/](http://www.safeabortionwomensright.org/international-safe-abortion-day-2017-received-an-unprecedented-amount-of-attention-and-interest-from-journalists-around-the-world/)

\*OHCHR = The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

*Source: Newsletter 6 Nov – 12 Nov 2017, International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion*

On International Safe Abortion Day (28 September 2017) the World Health Organization and Guttmacher Institute published new global, regional and subregional estimates of the number of abortions.

For the first time, the new study classified abortions as 'safe', 'less safe' and 'least safe' depending on whether they were provided by a trained health worker using a WHO-recommended method appropriate to the pregnancy duration ('safe abortions'; 55% of the annual global total of 56 million), by a trained provider using an unsafe method (such as sharp curettage) or using a safe method (like misoprostol tablets) but without giving appropriate information or support ('less safe abortions'; some 30% of the total), or by untrained persons using dangerous methods, such as introduction of foreign objects and use of herbal concoctions ('least safe abortions'; some 14% of the total). The majority (97%) of unsafe abortions (less safe and least safe) took place in developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Full details of the estimates can be found in [www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31794-4/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)31794-4/fulltext)

*Paul F. A. Van Look*

### Ellen Wiebe (Canada)

First, we had to wait until January 2017 to get mifepristone into Canada, and now we still have access problems. The price of \$350 per 200mg dose is a barrier for women and only 3/10 provinces are providing this free to all. On two occasions, the Canadian supplier ran out of mifepristone for several weeks. Each province has different regulations about who can prescribe and who can dispense the drug, causing immense confusion. The good news is that there are new abortion providers in places that have never had abortions provided locally before and that we expect more provinces to provide free mifepristone soon.

### Sam Rowlands (UK)

- Our President, Prof. Sharon Cameron, has been appointed as the Clinical Lead to the [NICE guideline on Termination of Pregnancy](#)
- Submissions to the Isle of Man consultation on its [draft Abortion Reform Bill 2017](#) have been received from the Royal College of Surgeons, Royal College of Midwives and the British Society of Abortion Care Providers

**NICE** National Institute for  
Health and Care Excellence

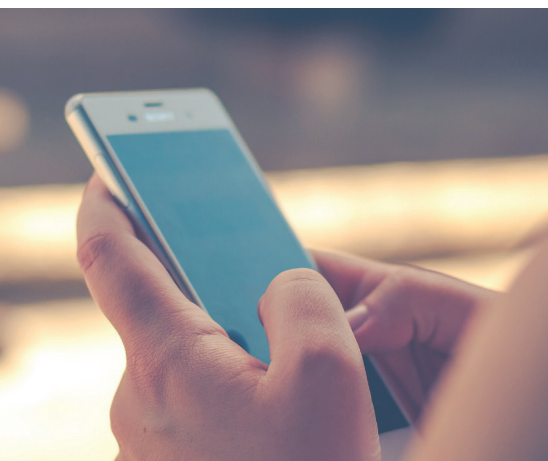
### Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson (Sweden)

The Swedish Medical Association and the Stockholm County Council and Karolinska Institutet joint research fund has granted money for a research project on immediate insertion of IUC post abortion. WCD and Wsafe abortion days are celebrated with some media attention also highlighting the global situation. The Swedish society for Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Swedish midwifery society are organising their biannual joint abortion seminar in October. The theme this year is “stigma”.

### Abigail Aiken (USA)

*Abigail R.A. Aiken, LBJ School of Public Affairs, Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin, USA*

I've been invited to appear in person before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Eighth Amendment of the Irish Constitution. This is the Irish Parliamentary Committee that is responsible for deciding the scope of the referendum to legalize abortion in Ireland, which is slated to take place in 2018. They would like me to make a presentation about my research on Irish women's decision-making when they need to obtain abortion services, and their experiences both with traveling abroad and availing of online telemedicine services at home.





## Sharon Cameron (UK)

Scotland gets approval for home administration of misoprostol. The Scottish Government approved home administration of misoprostol on 27th October 2017 -for women having early medical abortion. This means that women no longer need to make an extra visit to a clinic simply to receive misoprostol. This facilitates access to early medical abortion (< 10 wks) at home for all women in Scotland, but in particularly for women living in rural areas. This will significantly improve the wellbeing of thousands of women who access early medical abortion services in Scotland each year.

## James Trussell (USA)

*Office of Population Research, Princeton University, USA*

Aiken Abigail R.A., Guthrie Katherine A., Schellekens Marlies, Trussell James, Gomperts Rebecca  
Barriers to accessing abortion services and perspectives on using mifepristone and misoprostol at home in Great Britain, *Contraception* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.contraception.2017.09.003

[Link to the article](#)

## Vesna Stepanic (Croatia)

It is so hard to imagine life without the Internet and social networks now days. So I have created a Facebook page called "Gin – INFO – Gyn" (<https://www.facebook.com/Gin.INFO.Gyn/>). "Gin – INFO – Gyn" is in Croatian (primarily for the Croatian population, but for the former Balkan population as well, because the Croatian language is understandable in that Region). Headlines are provided in both Croatian and English. Also, some information from the ESC Facebook page is provided here as well, as is information from the Gynemed Clinic (C. Fiala), and other related websites. Most of the material is from a webpage ([www.zdravobudi.hr](http://www.zdravobudi.hr)) where I have been authoring a gynaecological column for more than 10 years. The Facebook page is completely voluntary, non-profit, and it is completely my own work. The page has only been up for 10 days and has already had more than 20,000 views.





Deborah Bateson (Australia)

- Abortion will be highlighted in a dedicated symposium at the interdisciplinary Australasian Sexual Health Alliance (ASHA) conference in November which aims to address how sexual health can be Re-Formed. Deborah Bateson and Angela Dawson have brought together nationally recognised abortion experts who will provide an overview of legal, service delivery and research developments and examine how these reflect current and future needs.
- In July, the Northern Territory government reformed the 'Medical Services Act' which had regulated women's access to abortion since 1974. Previously abortion in the Northern Territory was restricted to a surgical procedure in one of six hospitals. The Termination of Pregnancy Law reform Act 2017 decriminalises abortion and legalises the termination of pregnancy up to 23 weeks. The Act enables the provision of early medical abortion in primary health care settings and normalises consent procedures for minors. However the Act still requires assessment of the woman by two 'suitably qualified' doctors after 14 weeks gestation and stipulates that a woman's life must be endangered for a pregnancy to be terminated at more than 23 weeks gestation.







## International Consortium for Emergency Contraception (ICEC) 2017 Excellence in EC Awards

The **Felicia Stewart Lifetime Achievement Award** honors the memory of Felicia Stewart, a lifelong reproductive health advocate whose contributions to the field continue to have a tremendous impact. This year, we honored Dr. Anna Glasier of the University of Edinburgh for her tremendous contributions to the body of knowledge about emergency contraception through her vast portfolio of research. Dr. Glasier's work has been instrumental in the deregulation of and subsequent improvements in access to EC

The **Ellertson Innovation in EC Award** is given to an individual or organization that has made a bold move in the EC realm. This award was established by the American Society for Emergency Contraception in honor of Charlotte Ellertson, one of ASEC's founders. This year, we honored two individuals for their bold moves to improve access to and information about EC:

- Dr. Alison Edelman, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Oregon Health & Science University, has developed a research portfolio to answer the most pressing and challenging questions in EC, including the relationship between EC efficacy and the weight of the user, and the potential interactions between progestin-containing contraceptives and ulipristal acetate EC.
- Parteek Singh is a recent graduate of the University of California, Davis. Parteek worked tirelessly advocating with the University administration to install a health and wellness vending machine on campus that includes EC.



All materials to be included in the FIAPAC Newsletter should be submitted (electronically) to: [admin@fiapac.org](mailto:admin@fiapac.org)  
FIAPAC Central Office, p/a Orga-Med Congress Office, Opalfeneweg 3, 1740 Ternat, Belgium.

**Chief Editor:** Nausikaä Martens (Belgium)