A taste of Scotland (via Japan): introducing WCP2022



Professor David Webb
President, WCP2022

The 19th World Congress of Basic & Clinical Pharmacology is coming to Glasgow, Scotland in 2022. If you attended the 18th World Congress in Kyoto, Japan, in July, you won't have been able to miss the British Pharmacological Society's introduction to what you can expect in four years' time.

Our hosts, IUPHAR and the Japanese Pharmacological Society, were kind enough to let us officially launch WCP2022 with a presentation at the Closing Ceremony. I was delighted to be able to speak to delegates about the warm welcome that awaits them in Glasgow, and to share an outline of our plans. The grand finale – an authentic Scottish bagpiper to play us out of the hall – was a personal highlight of the conference for me. Judging by the reception he received inside and outside the hall (where he staged an impromptu 10-minute encore), Roddy the piper was very warmly received by many others too.



Shuh Narumiya (President, WCP2018) and David Webb (President, WCP2022) enjoy traditional Scottish bagpipe music at the closing ceremony in Kyoto

Between this, and the Society's promotional golf competitions and whisky tasting throughout the week, I hope many people left Kyoto with a wish to join us in Scotland next time.

WCP2022: a celebration of diversity, collaboration and excellence

The Organising Committee and I want WCP2022 to be a celebration of the diversity of the world's pharmacology and therapeutics community, from student pharmacologists to the world's leading authorities; from clinical pharmacologists working in national healthcare systems to innovators at the cutting edge of drug discovery in industry and academia.

This spirit of diversity and collaboration will be firmly underpinned by scientific excellence. The latest news about WCP2022 reflects this, because I am pleased to say that the British Pharmacological Society's new Scientific Advisory Panel, which it announced in October, has also agreed to act in an ambassadorial capacity as the core advisory group for developing WCP2022's scientific programme. The group comprises:

- Professor Jackie Hunter, Chief Executive, Clinical Programmes & Strategic Relationships, Benevolent AI
- Dr Fiona Marshall, VP Head of the UK Discovery Centre, MSD Research Laboratories
- Dr Menelas Pangalos, Executive Vice President, IMED Biotech Unit & Global Business Development, AstraZeneca
- Dr Tony Wood, Senior Vice President of Medicinal Science & Technology, GSK

We will add to this group over the next year or two, and in parallel assemble a Local Organising Committee to drive the logistics of the Congress in partnership with the Society. I look forward to seeing how the knowledge and advice of such an eminent group of life sciences industry leaders can inform the development of the Congress programme. I have every confidence that they will be able to help us identify emerging trends up to 2022, thereby ensuring that the Congress offers its delegates an experience that is right up to date with the very latest science.

Glasgow: a city of culture and character



Glasgow is a compact and very hospitable city, so in your time away from the Congress you will have no difficulty exploring the many cultural attractions it has to offer, including world class art galleries and museums.

Just 30 minutes outside the city lies some of the world's most breath-taking scenery in the form of lochs, mountains and historic castles. The historic capital city of Edinburgh is only an hour away and offers a huge amount for visitors to see and do, including Edinburgh Castle, Scotland's most visited tourist attraction.

If you are thinking about coming to Congress, I encourage you to make the most of your time in Scotland before, during and afterwards.

Scotland: home of medical innovation and drug discovery

As well as its rich traditions, Scotland is also forward-looking, dynamic, and – significantly for us – at the cutting edge of drug discovery. The country is a world leader in neuroscience research, regenerative medicine, and developing treatments for cardiovascular disease, metabolic disease and oncology.

Scotland is home to two of the world's top 50 universities for life sciences and medicine, the University of Glasgow and the University of Edinburgh. The universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, St Andrews, Strathclyde, Heriot-Watt University and Robert Gordon University are also centres of research excellence in the life sciences.

Scotland boasts one of the largest collections of science companies in Europe, with a combined turnover exceeding £4 billion. Its pharmaceuticals sector is worth £2.7 billion annually. It is home to over 150 pharma services and supply companies, from global leaders such as Charles River Laboratories, Quintiles and Encap Capsugel, to young, innovative companies with cutting-edge technologies such as Clyde Biosciences and Biopta.

I look forward to sharing more details about WCP2022 with you in future issues of Pharmacology International. Meantime, I would encourage you to read more about the Congress and register for updates at www.wcp2022.org.