

15 August 2008

13th ICDRA - Update on the Programme

Only four more weeks to go until the opening of the 13th ICDRA in Berne, Switzerland. We are pleased to announce an update of the conference programme on our ICDRA internet site. We trust that the presentations and reports from the various countries will provide a detailed overview of the challenges encountered within the field of drug regulation.

[Click here](#) to view the detailed Conference Programme.

The detailed programme for the ICDRA Pre-Conference can be downloaded [here](#).

Programme Spotlight: Workshop on Development of Regulation for Herbal Medicines

Currently, around 110 countries regulate herbal medicines in response to their dramatically increased use globally, and to ensure requirements for quality, safety and efficacy. A number of countries also review and strengthen existing regulations for herbal medicines in a continued effort to improve their use and efficacy. Regulation of herbal medicines varies from country to country, reflecting national circumstances and legislative framework. A global network of regulatory agencies responsible for regulation of herbal medicines, the "International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH)" was established in 2006 under the coordination of WHO and currently has 19 Members.

The workshop will present an overview of several different regulatory frameworks from India, United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, Brazil, Benin and China, where challenges are currently being faced. The IRCH perspective will also be presented. The following topics will be covered.

- Regulatory framework: overview of regulation of herbal medicines in Switzerland, Brazil and in Benin, including supporting primary health care needs
- Overview: revising the regulatory framework of herbal medicines in China
- Promotion of regulatory cooperation: perspectives from IRCH

Discussion following the presentations will lead to possible identification of recommendations as well as common challenges and opportunities to partner, sharing of information and expertise and promotion of regulatory cooperation.

Deadline for Submission of Presentations

In order to enable us to prepare presentation hand-outs for the ICDRA conference folder, we kindly remind all ICDRA speakers to please submit their powerpoint presentation to the ICDRA 2008 Organising Office **by 31 August 2008** at the latest. Please send your file electronically to icdra@swissmedic.ch.

Your files will safely be stored on our conference laptops to have them ready for your respective session/workshop. For any technical clarifications regarding your presentation, please feel free to contact the ICDRA 2008 Organising Office.

Booking adjustment

If you need to modify your booking for the ICDRA Pre-Conference as well as for the 13th ICDRA such as hotel reservation, social programme, arrival or departure date, please send an e-mail to icdra@swissmedic.ch with your request. We will be happy to assist you with the changes (you do not need to go back to registration).



Centaurea minus



Arnica montana

ICDRA coincides with Ramadan

This year's ICDRA will coincide with the fasting month of Ramadan. Many participants are from Islamic countries and will be respecting the fast during the Congress.

A separate prayer room will be available at the Congress hotel. On request, we would be pleased to associate local Islamic associations with the prayers. In addition, your selected hotel can adjust mealtimes in line with Ramadan. Please contact us regarding your requirements in this connection: icdra@swissmedic.ch

Excursions: On Top of Mount Rothorn

On the second day of the 13th ICDRA - Wednesday 17 September - there will be an afternoon excursion. Participants can choose between 3 destinations that are among the most stunning Switzerland has to offer:

- Lucerne and Lake Lucerne
- Mount Rothorn, Brienz
- Gruyère

Anticipation is always a pleasure, so we'll be presenting one of the excursions in each coming newsletter.

Brienz and Mount Rothorn

Leaving from the place of venue (Hotel Allegro/Kursaal) at 13h00. Coach trip from Berne along Lake Thun and Lake Brienz to the picturesque village of Brienz (arrival 14h30). In Brienz you will take the nostalgic steam-driven cog railway up the Brienzer Rothorn (2'244 m / 7'700 ft above sea level). The panoramic view stretches all the way to the Bernese Oberland with its 'ice giants' – the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau – in the south, the Titlis and the two Spannorts in the east, and the stone desert of the Schratzenfluh in the north-west. The view down onto Lake Brienz and Lake Thun is, of course, breathtaking. In the late afternoon you will drive back to Brienz. Transfer back to Berne by coach. Arriving in Berne at approx. 19h30.

Please pass this Newsletter on to anyone who would be interested. You can find more information about ICDRA at: www.icdra.ch

