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The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is a global federation of national associations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. Through its Member Organisations, FIP represents and serves more than three million practitioners and scientists around the world. FIP is grounded in pharmaceutical science through the Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences. In addition to its annual Congress, FIP organizes a Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress (PSWC) every three to four years. Previous PSWC meetings have been held in San Francisco (2000), Kyoto (2004), Amsterdam (2007) and New Orleans (2010). In 2014, the 5th PSWC will be held in Melbourne, Australia. Melbourne is a dynamic and cosmopolitan city in that is routinely included among lists of the world's most livable cities. PSWC 2014 will focus on the vision outlined in a recent FIP Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences (BPS) report relating to pharmaceutical science in 2020. This report followed an international conference with invited participants from various fields (academicians, scientists, regulators, industrialists, venture capitalists) who shared their views on the forces that might determine how the pharmaceutical sciences will look in 2020. The conference will showcase Asian pharmaceutical science with key program themes for the conference including 'East meets West' with a focus on emerging markets and regulatory frameworks. Other key themes will include 'Technologies for tomorrow's medicines', 'Solving the secrets of the cell', 'Accountability in medicines development', 'Medicines where they matter most' and 'New models of drug development'.