

World Congress on Menopause – Press release

[Worldwide menopause and preventative healthcare training scheme launched](#)

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Vancouver: 6 June 2018. A new online training course to enable doctors to optimise the healthcare of the vast numbers of women in their care who are in midlife or going through the menopause, is being launched today by the International Menopause Society, the world's leading international organisation focused on menopause and associated health issues.

The International Menopause Society Professional Activity for Refresher Training) or “IMPART” course, aimed at both family doctors and medical specialists, is being launched at the World Congress on the Menopause in Vancouver.

The World Bank estimates that the global population in 2030 will include over 1200 million women who have gone through the menopause, equivalent to around one woman in every 6. In spite of menopause being one of the most common conditions they manage, many family doctors are not aware of the best practice recommendations for menopausal symptoms (such as hot flushes, depression and vaginal dryness), and lack confidence in prescribing treatment.

This is the first educational initiative pertaining to menopause that is internationally applicable to family doctors and specialists working in midlife women's health. IMPART delivers internationally-accepted evidence-based educational material to improve midlife women's health care. IMPART is accessible on line and is cost free.

“This is an area where there has been a deficiency in readily-available continuing medical education” said Professor Duru Shah (University of Mumbai, India), Director of Digital Education for the International Menopause Society. *“Many mature women are treated according to current recommendations, sometimes through cultural or sexual discrimination, but often because their doctors are not up to date with the best treatment options”.*

IMPART comprehensively provides practitioner training in managing both acute menopausal symptoms and the long term consequences of the changes that occur at menopause. It provides guidance in midlife preventative health care, including when and what basic health checks should be performed to prevent and detect bone loss and osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, gynaecological cancers, and impaired mental health.

IMS President, Professor Mary Ann Lumsden (University of Glasgow) said: *“This is a much-needed educational initiative put together by a group of clinicians from all around the world. Physicians who successfully complete the course will thus be confident that they are working*

to the best internationally-accepted standards. IMPART means that women approaching midlife and the menopause can be sure that their doctor is trained to current best-practice.”

Incoming IMS President, Professor Susan Davis (Monash University) added: *“The IMPART project will be a core educational activity for the International Menopause Society over the foreseeable future. Doctors completing the course will be equipped with the tools to make a positive long-term impact on the lives of their female patients and their families”.*

Doctors can register for the IMPART course (the course is **free**) via the IMS website <http://www.imsociety.org/> The course is spread over two Levels, the first dealing with general menopause care and the second Level addressing specific common midlife health conditions.

IMPART has been funded by a Global Medical Grant from the Independent Grants for Learning & Change (IGLC), an education initiative of Pfizer. Neither the IGLC nor Pfizer have been involved in developing the course content. The course has been developed with the assistance of Technology Partner Bio Quest, with multi-level review by the IMS, under Professors Johannes Bitzer (University Hospital, Basel), Mary Ann Lumsden (University of Glasgow), Susan Davis (Monash University, Melbourne), Mr Tim Hillard (Poole Hospital, UK) and Professor Duru Shah (University of Mumbai).

The International Menopause Society (<http://www.imsociety.org>) is the pre-eminent international organisation working to improve care in women in midlife and during the menopause. The IMS annual conference is taking place in Vancouver, Canada, from 6-9 June 2018, <http://www.imsvancouver2018.com/>.

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