



ESCP

The bi-monthly newsletter
of the European Society
of Clinical Pharmacy

News

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A Few Words

Jacqueline Grassin, Immediate-Past President of ESCP, reflects on the evolution of ESCP over the last few years and its key role in the development of clinical pharmacy within Europe.

For more than seven years I have been a member of the General Committee (GC) of ESCP and it was a great honour and pleasure for me to serve as the President of the Society for two of these years. During this time, I was particularly active within ESCP in establishing the management of our Society and in securing the finances. In 2002, with the approval of the GC, we moved from an internal, stand-alone office to staff within a professional organisation. Even if our own staff was truly involved in and dedicated to the 'business' of the Society, we did not have enough resources to guarantee the further development of our activities. The decision to expand the management of the Society, although based on a thorough analysis, was probably risky for ESCP at the time - but it was necessary. Today, I believe we can safely say that our decision

From Vision to Reality



was right: considering the depth and breadth of information support, the development of the website and the quality of the management of our conferences.

Important developments

After this first step, we decided to improve the scientific activities by reorganising the structure of the Research and Education Committee. Thus, we created four different committees for Research, Education, Publication and one for the Special Interest Groups (SIGs), referred to as the RESP. This structure allows these committees to collaborate together as well as ensuring that they have the capacity to develop their own activities. During the last two years, ESCP has undertaken several research projects and participated in the Fair of Pharmaceutical Science in Nice. Moreover, the Education Committee now proposes new courses and will develop e-learning on our website.

The Publication Committee successfully restructured the submission procedure of abstracts. Not forgetting, of course, the significant and vital input of the Special Interest Groups - the backbone of ESCP and essentially the real value of our Society.

Promoting clinical pharmacy

Now, we have to think about our future. What will be the role of clinical pharmacists in the health care system and how can ESCP help them to evolve? Part of the answer is in our past: all the pharmacists who have been the leaders of our profession in Europe have been members of ESCP with responsibilities.

At any time, ESCP has been the laboratory for the new models of practice.

ESCP has been - at any time - the laboratory for the new models of practice, the advocacy board for the

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ESCP Welcomes New Members

378 new members from 43 countries have joined ESCP in the last year. These new members join ESCP's global community of members from 61 countries. The majority (90%) are located in Europe. The rest come from 27 countries across North America, South America Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and Africa.

Australia

Ee Lyn

Austria

Karin Nemec
Christine Pahr
Claudia Ramsauer

Belgium

Fabienne Anckaert
Tiene Bauters
Willy De Boever
Marc De Vos
Sylvie Demaret
Matus Ferech
Claire Maillieux
Nathalie Nivaille
Fabienne Snackers
Hilde Van Meenen
Viviane Wilson
Dominique Wouters

Bulgaria

Milkana Genkova

Canada

Vera Von Gunten

Croatia

Zoran Susic

Czech Republic

Barbora Cadikova
Jana Davidova
Dagmar Dolinska
Katerina Dvorakova
Vendula Friedova
Michal Hojny
Natasa Ivanovic
Helena Koblihova
Peter Kollar
Hana Kotolova
Martina Krenova
Alexandra Kristoficova
Helena Kubinova
Alena Linhartova
Martina Loudova
Dana Mazankova
Katarina Mikusova
Irena Netikova
Tomas Novak
Jana Novotna
Jitka Novotna
Hana Pelikanova
Milan Peterka

Jitka Pokladnikova
Jiri Prochazka
Ladislav Ruman
Lucie Sobolova
Tomas Svoboda
Karel Urbanek
Marie Vondruskova
Magda Vytrisalova
Marcela Zemkova
Jana Zizalova

Denmark

Anna Birthe Bach
Linda Jeffery
Anne Jensen
Eva Lund
Helle Olgaard McNulty
Josef Nejatbakhsh

Egypt

Sherif Abouelnaga
Manal El-Hamamsy

Estonia

Aune Kirotar
Hille Mikita

Finland

Timo Mohnani
Maria Nordberg-Rautamo

France

Laurence Augereau
Marie Odile Baume
Guy Benoit
Sylvie Charruey
Fouad Chiadmi
Collette Delpech Jean
Pascal Dongmo
Damien Felix
Valerie Furlan
Andre Giesenfeld
Charlotte Gourio
Veronique Graff
Laetitia Grasset
Jean-Michel Joulia
Bladine Juillard-Condac
Estelle Koutny
Karine Marechal
Celine Menat
Valerie Meunier-Danel
Dominique Pradeau
Hugues Robert
Celine Serrurier
Thomas Storme

Audrey Toledo
Napoleon Tuyindi Ngikila
Jean Vigneron

Germany

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Matthias Ganso
Andrea Kastl
Wolfgang Kircher
Nele Reineking
Katrin Schuessel
Suhaila Steinkuehler

Greece

Nikodimos Chatzigeorgiou
Giorgos Gkaniatsos
Dimos Patrikos
Dimitrios Romanopoulos
Aristea Tsiledaki-Costea
Leonidas Tzimis

Hungary

Maria Elvira Antunes
Fodor Gyorgyike
Tunde Kovac-Ordog
Ildika Unghvary

India

Nomal Borah

Indonesia

Retnosari Andrajati

Ireland

Bernadette Harnett

Israel

Shani Rubinovich
Judith Tesler

Italy

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Maria Rita Badagliacca
Filomena Barretta
Sara Bartolini
Silvana Bavetta
Marinella Bedo
Elisabetta Bini
Caterina Cerutti
Tullia Emanuelli
Roberta Foffano
Elisabetta Fonzi
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Giovanna Garinei
Anna Rita Gasbarro
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Maria Giardino
Anna Malesci
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Giulia Marino
Anna Maria Medagliani
Elisabetta Migliorisi
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Daniela Sichetti
Biagio Solarino
Rosaria Sorbello
Sara Samuela Tamponi
Carmela Terracciano
Claudia Velardi
Maria Cristina Verlengo
Doris Vinatzer
Patrizia Zaccari
Valentina Zampardi

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Lebanon

Aline Cordahi
Jocelyne Ghousoub
Abdel Nour Kello

Lithuania

Vilma Petrikaite

Luxembourg

Anne-Marie Frank

Malaysia

Aurelia Lee
Chong Eng Lim
Chow Thin Sun

Malta

Josette Sciberras

Norway

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Marit Buajordet
Malin Davidsson
Barbro Erikson
Janne Kutschera Sund

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Amna Al-Hashar

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Claudia Andrade Pereira
Marta Brigida Arez

Andrea Borges
 Nuno Cruz
 Manuela Moreira De Sousa
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 Marolia Joao Rocha
 Catarina Rodrigues
 Miranda Rute
 Ana Sofia Silva
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 Isabel Sobral
 Carla Sousa
 Patricia Vicente
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 Zecherie Benat
 Octavia Maria Boeiriu
 Irina Bogdan
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 Elena Bucovala
 Anda Bucovala
 Alina Bulea
 Ligia Bulzan
 Monica Burbulea
 Ecaterina Busurca
 Olimpia Buzia
 Garofita Caraban
 Luminita Ciubuc
 Georgeta Covasa
 Carmen Cristescu
 Dana Crutescu
 Aurelia Dan
 Didina Diaconu
 Niculina Din
 Liliana Dobos
 Maria Mirela Enache
 Odeta Florea
 Maria Fulea
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 Steluta Gordos
 Vasilica Grigore
 Gica Iacob
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 Iona Ionescu
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 Zorita Jianu
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 Suliman Alhomidah
 Majed Aljeraisy
 Khalid Alkharfy
 Ali Almitwazi
 Abdaluziz Alrajhi
 Mohammed Al-Shabeeb
 Hafiz Makeen
 Ghassan Shaikhain

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Ivana Simovic

Serbia and Montenegro

Branka Stojanovic

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 Anna Adameova
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Gabriela Machackova
 Peter Matejka
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 Blanca Martinez Sanchez
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 Sesmero
 Belen Matilla Fernandez
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 Iciar Perez Rodrigo
 Cristina Perez Sanz
 Nuria Rudi
 Jorge Ruiz Lopez
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 Ulrica Johansson
 Aleksejs Kontijevskis
 Ulrika Landin
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 Anna Lindberg
 Helena Lindholm
 Annika Norden Hagg
 Lena Olsson
 Agneta Renstrom
 Lina Rosenquist
 Linda Rydstrom
 Eva Stenstroem-Eklund
 Maria Storey
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 Ingrid Wallstrom

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Lorenz Damm
 Marianne Eggenberger
 Amina Gadri
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Auyporn Tana

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G.H.P. De Koning
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 May Abu Shihab
 Nadia Al Mazroui
 Asim Elnour
 Maha Kahal
 Waseem Shaheen

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 Yogini Jani
 Tariq Javed
 Rhian Jones
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 Ziba Rajaei-Dehkordi
 Deborah Reeves
 Stephanie Scott
 Graham Sewell
 Rauja Tawab
 Eleanor Woodford

USA

Azzam Azzahoufi
 Audrey Burgher
 Michael Cohen
 Lebron Cooper
 Don Gruntowicz
 Karen Hitchen
 Sven Normann
 Debra Skaar

Who's Who

Maria Skouroliakou (Greece)



Maria Skouroliakou graduated with a BS Degree from Sanford University in Birmingham, Alabama, USA in 1981. She then acquired her licence to practise pharmacy two years later and received special training in the preparation of parenteral nutrition solutions. In 1997 she completed her doctoral thesis at the University of Athens concerning the protocols, methods of application, and socio-economic analysis of parenteral nutrition in low birth-weight infants.

She started practising as a pharmacist at Birmingham University Hospital of Alabama for the greater part of 1983 and moved on to

practise as a pharmacist consultant in a private pharmacy in Athens, Greece.

In 1985 she was appointed Head of the Special Parenteral Solutions and Pharmacokinetics Units at Agia Sophia Children's Hospital in Athens.

Two years later, Dr. Skouroliakou was promoted to head of the Pharmacy Department and Head of Special Parenteral Solutions. Now she is the Head of Nutrition and Pharmacokinetics at IASO Hospital in Athens, Greece, as well as a lecturer at Harokopio University.

As well as an author and co-author of

many books such as the European Drug Index and General Statistics and the Survey on Involvement of Pharmacists in Oncology in Europe, she is a member of the European Hospital Pharmacists Association and also of the American Association of Pharmacists.

An active member of ESCP since 1993, Maria is the leader of the Nutritional Support Special Interest Group (SIG).

Maria Skouroliakou's election to the General Committee follows the unfortunate resignation last year of Peter Persson, Sweden. In her capacity as a member of the GC she will be representing ESCP members from Austria, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. ●

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Election Results ESCP General Committee 2005-2009

Two members of the General Committee end their term of office at the Society's General Assembly in October in Amsterdam.

ESCP News introduces their successors.

ESCP is pleased to announce the election of Mrs. Marie Caroline Husson from France to the General Committee. She will assume the position vacated by Mrs. Jacqueline Grassin.

The Treasurer, Mrs. Elisabeth Grimm Baettig from Switzerland, has also completed her term of office on the General Committee and we are pleased to announce the election of Mr. Johnny Beney who will now represent members from Switzerland on the General Committee. Mr. Erik Gerbrands, representing The

Netherlands, was elected by the General Committee to replace Mrs. Grimm Baettig as ESCP Treasurer. He will take up office as from the General Assembly in October.

Lastly, we are pleased to announce the re-election of Mrs. Francesca Venturini as the representative for Italy, who remains on the Executive Committee in her position as Chair of the RESP for 2 more years.

ESCP is indebted to the hard work and dedication of Jacqueline Grassin, who served as President from 2002 to 2004, and of Elisabeth Grimm Baettig who served as Treasurer from 2002 to 2005.

Both have done an outstanding job over the past few years in service to the Society and to the profession of clinical pharmacy.

We thank them for their time and commitment. ●

European government or health agencies. The European recommendations for pharmacy practice and the defined responsibilities of pharmacists are mainly inspired by ESCP. We can be sure that the recognition of the pharmacists' role in the health care team is tightly linked to the added value of their actions in: the rational use of medications; the promotion of both health improvement and the prevention of disease; the development of secure drug-purchasing and distribution systems; and the participation in the public health objectives at both the individual and societal levels.

To conclude, I definitely agree with Stuart Haines, the next President-Elect of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, to say that "I am confident we can make our vision a reality". ●

Meeting Pharmacists from South Africa and Serbia

During the 5th ESCP Spring Conference held in Stockholm last May, pharmacists from South Africa and Serbia benefited from a free registration to the conference offered by ESCP to participants from developing countries. *ESCP News* meets these colleagues.

Jan Gerber (South Africa)

Jan Gerber is a pharmacist who lectures in forensic pharmacy and health sciences. He is the Head of the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutic Care Division of the School of Pharmacy at the Potchefstroom campus of the North West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa. At this university the undergraduate course leading to a degree in pharmacy is of four years duration plus a one year internship after obtaining the degree. The internship can be done in a hospital or community pharmacy, industry or in academia. To practise as a pharmacist, graduates need to undertake a one year community service in

a state-owned hospital pharmacy. The majority of graduates from the North West University eventually practise in community pharmacy as their principal employment.

For Jan, the 5th ESCP Spring Conference was his second ESCP conference having participated in the ESCP conference in Antwerp in 2001. He finds participation at ESCP conferences very interesting since he is trying to play a role in establishing clinical pharmacy at the school of pharmacy at the Potchefstroom campus of the North West University in South Africa. In his capacity as Head of Division of the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutic Care Division, Jan has developed a programme where students are exposed to government primary health clinics during their fourth year of study. They also gain practical experience during ward rounds in a local hospital during their fourth year.

During the conference Jan Gerber and colleagues presented a poster on 'Viral Infections in a Primary Health Care Setting'. The prevalence and

medicine treatment costs of viral infections in nine private primary health care centres in South Africa were reviewed. It was found that around 12% of the infections diagnosed at the centres were viral in origin amounting to around €15.000 direct costs. When treatment used was compared to the recommended treatment protocol, it was calculated that around € 4.270 were overspent.



Branka Stojanovic (Serbia)

The 5th ESCP Spring Conference in Stockholm was Branka's first experience of an ESCP conference. She was introduced to ESCP by her colleague Branislava Milkjovic. Branka is currently reading for a Masters degree at the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Kragujevac in Serbia. She is also participating in a Pharmacy Project which aims at developing pharmacy services across hospitals in Serbia. Amongst the areas she is looking into are: the development and implementation of Drug and Therapeutics Committees, hospital formularies, clinical pharmacy services on the wards, drug use evaluation and unit dose systems. This requires Branka to visit different hospitals in Serbia and to establish training programmes for the hospital pharmacists. The training programmes are co-ordinated by a team consisting of a specialist pharmacist, an academic pharmacist and a medical specialist.

During the conference, Branka presented three posters which described examples of different activities carried out in the development of the pharmacy services. The posters highlighted: the impact of pharmacists' counselling on the adherence to the use of statins in patients with acute coronary syndrome and hyperlipidaemia; the impact of introducing quality measures in medicines management on antibiotic utilisation; and indicators of drug use in primary health care in Serbia.

Bristol-Myers Squibb's Award for Young Pharmacy Students

A chance to attend the Annual ESCP Symposium

The French Clinical Pharmacy teachers, led by Jean Calop and Françoise Brion, together with the Hospital Partnership & Programmes Department from Bristol-Myers Squibb, launched earlier this year an award for young clinical pharmacists in France.

In France, pharmacy students in the 5th year of their curriculum must practise for one year at a hospital. Under the supervision of teacher practitioners, they gain experience in clinical pharmacy.

For the inaugural Award, students from the Paris district or region (in

their 5th year of pharmacy studies) were invited to submit an original paper describing a project carried out during the year on topics such as medication history, a case report, pharmaceutical care, drug medication error, drug information report or patient counselling.

Although the competition was announced quite late in the year, up to 25 proposals were received by the Bristol-Myers Squibb organising committee.

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Patient Profiling in Amsterdam...

ESCP's 34th European Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy

With only a month to go prior to ESCP's 34th European Symposium, *ESCP News* whets your appetite with what to expect from the programme that will take place amongst the waterways of the 'Venice of the North' - Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The magic of Amsterdam will provide the background for this symposium focusing on 'Patient Profiling: Key to Successful Treatment'. With its myriad of canals and bridges, small streets and picturesque houses Amsterdam provides a delightful stage to reflect on the theme of the opening day and plenary lecture 'Environmental setting as a determinant to successful treatment.' To kick off the symposium, Mark Heppener of the European Space Agency

(EPSA) will transport you into outer space to consider the health issues that face those who venture beyond the boundary of our globe. Mark will focus much of his address on medical and biomedical research, applying examples taken from both fundamental and applied research themes

If this is not stimulus enough to start the four-day programme, you can continue to enjoy the evening at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), an independent centre of knowledge and expertise dedicated to international and intercultural cooperation (also the venue for the keynote plenary address). What better environment to catch up with old friends and meet many new colleagues in the spirit of ESCP networking and interaction at the Symposium's Welcome Reception.

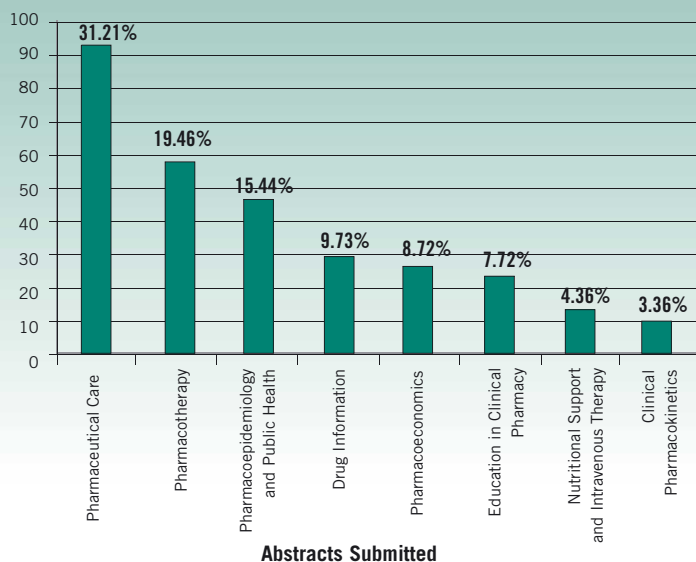
A rich and varied programme

The next three days are packed with lectures, round table discussions,

workshops and pharmacotherapy updates led by speakers and tutors from across Europe, the Middle East and as far a field as Australia. Each day the morning's plenary lectures elaborate on the theme of the day and are followed by a round table discussion on the topics raised. All delegates are invited to participate actively in these open discussions. An extended lunch time allows you to review posters and talk with industry representatives in the exhibition area. For the smaller, interactive workshop sessions of the afternoon you may choose from amongst seven diverse and stimulating topics that run concurrently.

In addition to the daily lunch time session, posters may be viewed and discussions with exhibitors held during the morning and afternoon coffee breaks. Enhancing the depth and breadth of the main scientific programme a broad range of topics will be elaborated through the poster sessions and oral communications. Some 300 abstracts have been received from across Europe covering key areas.

A broad range of topics



Pre-symposium information

To help you better prepare for discussions and select the afternoon sessions of your choice, invited speakers' presentations will be posted on the ESCP website (www.escp-web.org) in advance of the meeting. You can also find out more about the pharmaceutical companies exhibiting during the Symposium, so that you





Patient Profiling: Key to Successful Treatment

26-29 October 2005 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

can best plan your meetings during the exhibition hours, and even organise these in advance. At the time of going to print the following companies had confirmed their participation: Baxter, Dijkstra Verenigde, E-wise, Glaxo SmithKline, OPG, Pharma Partners and Pharmaceutical Press. Baxter will also be holding a Symposium on Friday 28 October on Raising the Bar for the Immunoglobulins and Albumin.

four-day programme in Amsterdam in the 'style of the locals' by renting a bicycle. Amsterdam is made for cyclists – so why not enjoy the city's scenery and travel to and from the symposium venue (the Rai Conference Centre), your hotel and the social events on two wheels.

ESCP looks forward to welcoming you to Patient Profiling in Amsterdam!



Interaction and exercise

In addition to the formal learning during the symposium sessions, much of the networking and exchange of experiences and best practices will take place during the informal social events. The Netherlands Maritime Museum will be the inspiration for this year's Cultural Evening to be held on 27 October. Not only will the evening provide interaction amongst delegates, it will also be a golden opportunity to learn about the rich and far-reaching maritime history of The Netherlands. The emphasis of Saturday night's Farewell Party will on having fun and dancing the night away to the sounds of the seventies and eighties played by Stonegroove, a band made up entirely of Dutch pharmacists and well-known in the pharmacy world in The Netherlands. In anticipation of this evening and to ensure you keep fit during the symposium, you may like to live the

Programme highlights

- Masterclass in Search of Excellence – Individualisation of Cancer Treatment: Clinical and Genetic Approaches (26 October)
- 7th EPSA-ESCP Students' Symposium – Student Profiling: Finding the Future Clinical Pharmacist (26 October)
- Evening Plenary Lecture on Health Research in Space (26 October)
- Theme of Day 2: The Dimensions of Patient Treatment Individualisation (27 October)
- Theme of Day 3: Methods of Patient Treatment Individualisation: Genetic, Pathological, Social (28 October)
- Theme of Day 4: Patient Participation: Innovations in Patient Care and Professional Mobilisation (29 October)
- NVZA Scientific Meeting – Research for the Benefit of the Patient (27 October)
- Pharma Selecta Symposium – Pharmacogenomics and Pharmacy (28 October)
- ESCP General Assembly (28 October)
- Daily Pharmacotherapy Updates on Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Workshops on patient drug information, patient profiles, pharmaceutical care plans in patients with cardiovascular disease, use of anti-infective agents, pharmaceutical care for patients with type 2 diabetes, psychiatric pharmacotherapy, therapeutic drug monitoring, new practices and teaching pharmacogenomics.
- SIG workshops in paediatrics, integrated care, education and training, nutritional care and medicine information.

Detailed programme information is available at: www.escpweb.org or by contacting the ESCP International Office by e-mail: info@escpweb.org, telephone: +32-2-743 1542 or by fax: +32-2-743 1550.

Register before 14 October and save €100

	On or before 14 October	After 14 October and onsite
ESCP Members	€550	€650
Non-members	€650	€750

Register online at: www.escpweb.org



A Glance at Clinical Pharmacy in Different Countries

As Jacqueline Grassin states in her 'Few Words', ESCP is a platform for pharmacists to come together and inspire developments in clinical pharmacy practice across Europe. This can be achieved because ESCP maintains a scientific base and sustains networking amongst its membership. Members can meet, discuss and exchange views and experiences, which leads to evolution and innovation whilst at the same time moving towards the harmonisation of standards in patient care. *ESCP News* met up with three pharmacists who describe clinical pharmacy in their countries.

Anna Carollo (Italy)

Instituto Mediterraneo per i Trapianti e Terapie ad Alta Specializzazione University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Italy (UPMC), Palermo, Italy

For those who are familiar with the American Academic Medical System it is very common to have a clinical

pharmacist involved in daily clinical activity. The usual scenario that you, as a pharmacist, face at 06.00 in any American surgical ward is the following: fellows and residents on duty asking thousands of questions to the pharmacist on service and the latter giving very precise answers concerning administration, use of drugs, side effects and other drug related issues. But surely the importance of having a clinical pharmacist involved in patient care goes much further than this. One example of how important this is, how it can be implemented in Italy and how to achieve interaction between clinical pharmacists, is seen in the hospital where I work, ISMETT.

ISMETT, a 90-bed facility mainly dedicated to solid organ transplantation, is a speciality hospital managed and operated by UPMC. ISMETT has its own Department of Pharmacy which gives input to the clinical and research activity in the hospital. Obviously, our department is strongly supported by our 'sister' department in Pittsburgh where many of us have trained.

The clinical pharmacist at ISMETT is involved in devising the immunosuppressive therapy, in assessing and reporting patients' nutritional status, in calculating artificial nutrition formulae for such complex patients and

in providing support to the outpatient clinic by providing education for discharged patients.

This clinical pharmacy practice is not yet the common standard in Italian hospitals. One of the present barriers is the inadequate numbers of clinical pharmacists in the hospitals.

But what is more surprising for us everyday is the desire of our colleagues, who work as clinical pharmacists in other hospitals, to apply our model in other Italian hospitals in order to create a role for clinical pharmacists in Italy which would have more impact on the outcome of patients' care.

Emel Mashaki (Turkey)

Research and Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Pharmacy, Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey

In Turkey, due to some structural and governmental barriers which exist in the health care system, clinical pharmacy practice in hospitals and clinical settings is still in the development phase. Yet we have five faculties of pharmacy out of thirteen which already include clinical pharmacy courses in their undergraduate curricula. A Masters post-graduate degree in clinical pharmacy is offered by the faculties of pharmacy in

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On 9 June, a very friendly and lively ceremony was organised, at the Bristol-Myers Squibb European Headquarters located in Rueil-Malmaison, to listen to the students' short presentations. The work was assessed by a committee of pharmacists and one physician.

This year the first prize was awarded to Aldine Fabreguettes who presented a very interesting Clinical Case of

Tuberculosis in Paediatrics. She will attend the ESCP Amsterdam Symposium in October. What an opportunity to start her career!

After the success of this first experience, the competition will be expanded in 2006 to embrace all French students. This Award recognises not only the importance of clinical pharmacy but also the role of pharmacy students in the ward. This will certainly contribute to the imple-

mentation of clinical pharmacy in France.

Let me thank Bristol-Myers Squibb Hospital Partnership & Programmes Team for their support and perfect organisation. I would also already like to invite the teacher-practitioners and academic teachers to encourage their students to participate in the 2006 Award.

André Rieutord
France

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Marmara, Yeditepe and Ankara. The PhD. degree in clinical pharmacy is only available in the faculty of pharmacy in Marmara University under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Fikret V. Izzetin who is also my supervisor.

Things are changing quite quickly in both the health care system and pharmacy education in Turkey. I can clearly see that clinical pharmacy is almost no longer a dream for Turkey. Many students are interested in this field and young clinical pharmacists are coming up. I think that by encouraging them and enhancing their participation in the conferences and clinical courses organised by ESCP, they will be able to gain more experience and skills and share it with their colleagues from other countries. For clinical pharmacy, in my country or elsewhere for that matter, we need willing hearts and to understand that it is only when knowledge is shared that it has real value!

Maria Rylen (Sweden)

Helsingborg Hospital, Helsingborg, Sweden

A clinical pharmacy service has been provided at Helsingborg Hospital since 2002. The service includes tasks such as obtaining a medication history, patient interviews, attendance at rounds, and recording and resolving drug related problems (DRP). Follow-up interviews and reporting of DRPs to GPs are also performed.

More than 11.000 patients have had a medication review. The DRPs identified and interventions made are collected in a database. 45% of the patients have one or more DRP. Frequency and type of DRPs differ between settings due to different patient groups, working processes, data available and pharmacists' involvement. Consensus groups, consisting of physicians and clinical pharmacists, have evaluated the clinical significance of DRPs detected and 59% of the DRPs have been classified as clinically significant and avoiding health care costs. ●

Report of the 26th General Assembly

Prague - Czech Republic, 22 October 2004

1. Opening

In the absence of the President, Jacqueline Grassin, the Vice President Jiri Vıcek opened the 26th General Assembly and welcomed all participants.

2. Report of the 25th General Assembly, Valencia, Spain

The report was approved.

3. Annual report of the President

Jiri Vıcek informed the General Assembly that the success of the Valencia Symposium and of the 2nd ACCP/ESCP International Congress held in Paris, France were both crucial for the overall continuity of ESCP's activities and to underline the importance of clinical pharmacy. The President indicated that membership numbers are stable and the joint membership systems with both the French and Italian national societies are showing a very positive impact.

4. Annual report of the Executive Director

The ESCP Executive Director, Bruce Roudebush, reported that the Society is doing very well, both in terms of membership, attendance at Conference and Symposia, web site statistics and Newsletter quality.

He also indicated that the relationship with the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association continued to improve, with the result of over 150 students in Prague.

ESCP conferences were also tremendously successful this year, and the forecast of this Prague Symposium was already ahead of budget with close to 1.000 delegates.

On a more operational point it was also announced that a new Executive Director was to be appointed in the coming months.

5. Annual report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer, Elisabeth Grimm Baettig, reported on the finances of the Society.

■ *Final Account 2003* : Report approved

■ *Budget 2004* : Report of half-year results approved

■ *Budget 2005* : Budget presented and approved

6. Annual report of the RESP

Francesca Venturini, Chair of the RESP, reported on RESP activities.

Research Committee : two research projects were actively formalised, one on fungal infections management, in collaboration with hospital pharmacists from several European countries, and the other focusing on the use of COX-2 Inhibitors, in collaboration with community pharmacists from across Europe.

Education Committee : the conference format was being improved to

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We invite you to participate in this platform and to share your experiences with colleagues from different countries by attending the next ESCP Annual Symposium in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 26-29 October. For full programme details and to register, please visit the Symposium website at: www.escpweb.org.

differentiate between Spring Conference and Fall Symposium and to better answer participants expectations. Continuing Education was another major project of the Education Committee, aiming at providing CE credits for attending congresses or participating in the ESCP organisation.

Publication Committee : the Newsletter was extremely successful and interactive, with articles from a wide range of different countries. All abstracts submitted at ESCP meetings were published in PWS, and some actions were identified to improve the impact factor. The web site showed excellent visitor statistics.

SIG Council : discussions about new SIG for Palliative Care were moving forward, and it was decided to close down the Psychiatry and Quality Assurance SIGs.

All SIG leaders were trained to update their own SIG section of the ESCP web site. The feedback that was received was globally very positive.

7. Discharge and appointment of GC and EC members

The General Assembly recognised the outgoing GC members who have completed their term of office to the Society : Christine Clark (UK), Hanne Stenberg-Nilsen (Norway) and Fatima Falcao (Portugal, for the smaller countries). Peter Persson (Sweden, for the smaller countries), who had to resign due to unfortunate personal circumstances, was also recognized for his 1 year involvement in the GC.

The re-election of Christine Clark, representing the UK, was not possible due to the fact that the UK membership was no longer large enough to remain as one of the 9 countries with the highest number of ESCP members.

On behalf of the GC, the President formally apologized to Christine Clark for the inappropriate manner in which this issue was communicated

by the Executive Committee.

The outgoing President Jacqueline Grassin was thanked for her 2 years service presiding over the Society, and the new President Jiri Vlcek was officially introduced.

Incoming GC members were announced and recognized by the General Assembly :

Mara Guerreiro, representing Portugal, Frank Jørgensen, representing Norway, and Pat Murray (UK) representing the smaller countries.

8. Future Congresses

The Vice President Gert Laekeman presented the upcoming ESCP conferences.

The Spring Conference in 2005 will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, with a focus on 'Integrating Research, Education and Clinical Practice'.

The Fall 2005 Annual Symposium will take place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on 26 - 29 October. The theme of the Symposium will be: 'Patient Profiling : Key to Successful Treatment'.

Spring 2006 Spring Conference will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 24 - 27 May. This event will in actually be a Baltic Conference, comprising the support of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia, and the theme will be 'Chronic Disease Management : The Role of the Pharmacist'.

In the Fall of 2006, the 35th ESCP Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy will be held in Vienna, Austria. Then, in the Spring of 2007, we are hoping to be able to organise the Conference in the United Kingdom or Greece .

9. Date and venue for the next General Assembly meeting

The 27th General Assembly will take place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on Friday 28 October 2005 from 16.30 to 17.30 in the Amsterdam RAI Conference Centre.●

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ESCP General

The General Committee is pleased to highlight some of the key developments and achievements within the Society since the last General Assembly in Prague, October 2004.

Amongst the main features in 2004-2005 were the excellent attendance numbers of the ESCP meetings in Prague and Stockholm. Over the last few years, ESCP has invested in the quality, branding, content and organisation of its meetings, and both Prague and Stockholm have shown the fruits of these efforts.

The new ESCP structure is now firmly installed and operational. The ESCP committees form the solid and active scientific backbone of our Society and the participation of General Committee members, who now also serve on one of the established working committees, has shown to improve coordination and communication in general.

Research

The two scientific projects managed by the Research Committee (Eurocox and Severe Fungal Infections Management and Patients' Outcome) are currently being finalised. Preliminary results were presented during the 1st Fair of Pharmaceutical Science organised by EUFEPS, which was held in June in Nice, France.

Sharing knowledge

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continue to flourish and strongly contribute to the scientific programmes of ESCP meetings in proposing themes for, and leading, workshops. Over the last year, the membership of all SIGs has increased remarkably, probably due, among other things, to the online SIG community provided by the ESCP

Committee Annual Report 2004-2005

website. Moreover, new or consolidated SIGs are being created. A new SIG on Palliative Care has been carefully considered which, when launched (once critical mass is reached), would bring the total to twelve SIGs. The SIG Council ensures cross-fertilisation, efficiency and the sharing of best practices amongst all SIGs.

In addition to the SIGs, the interactivity of the ESCP newsletter further stimulates the active involvement of, and sharing of knowledge between, ESCP members. Another initiative of the Publication Committee over this last year, which has helped to improve the accurate transmission of knowledge, has been the overhaul of the abstract submission process. The new online submission programme has led to increased quality in abstracts, as well as a more efficient review process and secured anonymity. Both the Prague symposium and Stockholm conference saw a steep increase in the number of abstracts submitted. Abstracts will continue to be published in PWS.

Education and meetings

The Education Committee has reviewed and further polished the format of ESCP conferences and symposia. This is an ongoing exercise and lessons learned from the past will be applied to all future ESCP meetings. A very positive development is the increasing list of countries giving continuing education points for attendance at ESCP meetings. The Education Committee is also exploring the possibilities of setting up an online education scheme.

Both the Prague and Stockholm meetings showed a high attendance and were highly appreciated for their scientific content. In Prague we were very happy to welcome a large student delegation from EPSA. A new service that was introduced for the Prague symposium and repeated for the Stockholm conference, and highly appreciated by attendees, was

the posting of speakers presentations on the ESCP website prior to the event. As for Stockholm, the fantastic farewell cruise dinner represented a spectacular ending for a very well attended ESCP spring conference, with more than 750 attendees.

Partnerships

In order to further improve and increase educational activities, both at symposia as well as outside the conference framework, ESCP will further build on its contacts with industry partners. ESCP was very happy to host Apoteket and Pfizer in Stockholm with a mini symposium, both important and highly valued examples of educational partnering with our industry partners.

In addition, the General Committee has started initiatives to reach out to related organisations such as the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU), with a view to considering mutually beneficial projects.

Membership

Our membership is solid, with an upward trend. The dual membership agreements with the Italian and French societies continue to be very

fruitful for ESCP, with 44 SIFO (Italian) and 72 SFPC (French) dual members at the moment. Discussions on dual memberships with other national societies are underway.

ESCP constitution

One of the many activities that has occupied the Executive and General Committees over the last year has been an important and strategic review of the ESCP Statutes. Their revisions have now been finalised and members can review the proposed changes by logging in to the Members Only section of the website (www.escpweb.org). During the General Assembly in Amsterdam on Friday 28 October 2005 at 16.30 the revised Statutes will be submitted to members for their final approval.

The General Committee in Stockholm nominated Jeroen van Liempd as the new Executive Director for ESCP. He succeeded Bruce Roudebush who passed on the torch after three years of leadership. ●

Jiri Vleck

ESCP President

Jeroen van Liempd

ESCP Executive Director

New Constitution for ESCP

The General Committee is pleased to announce that it has agreed on some important modifications to the ESCP Statutes.

Formal approval of these proposed changes will be sought from members during the General Assembly in Amsterdam on Friday 28 October 2005 at 16.30. All members are therefore invited to review the text by logging in to the Members Only section of the ESCP web site at: www.escpweb.org.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend the 27th ESCP General Assembly and participate actively in the decisions of the Society. Please refer to the enclosed Agenda for full details.

New European Journal for Clinical Pharmacists

The pharmacy sector is in a period of change and the overall role of the clinical pharmacist is becoming more varied. Clinical pharmacists are being given greater responsibility in the prescribing of therapeutics, the management of patient's treatment regimens and key aspects of patient safety.

To address all these issues and develop

effective processes for practice, Campden Publishing will launch Clinical Pharmacy Europe (CPE) in October 2005. The editorial content of the journal will concentrate on the key issues of Medicines Management and Patient Safety taking the form of clinical reviews, short papers and reports with up to date news and informed discussion.

Subscription to this new and exciting journal is completely free for ESCP members. Simply register at www.clinicalpharmacyeurope.com, fill in your details and you will receive the first edition in early October:

For Your Diary ESCP Conferences and Courses

In 2005

26 October	Amsterdam The Netherlands	Masterclass in Search of Excellence Individualisation of Cancer Treatment: Clinical and Genetic Approaches
26 October	Amsterdam The Netherlands	7th EPSA-ESCP Students' Symposium Student Profiling: Finding the Future Clinical Pharmacist
26-29 October	Amsterdam The Netherlands	34th European Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy Patient Profiling: Key to Successful Treatment

In 2006

24-27 May	Vilnius Lithuania	6th Spring Conference on Clinical Pharmacy Chronic Disease Management: The Role of the Pharmacist
18-21 October	Vienna Austria	35th European Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy The Role of Communication in Patient Safety and Pharmacotherapy Effectiveness

Further information is available at: www.escpweb.org



European Society of Clinical Pharmacy

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