

ESCP

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

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News

The Need for Interdisciplinary Cooperation and Teamwork

Lilian M. Azzopardi, co-ordinator of *ESCP News* shares her views on the importance of interaction amongst health professionals today.

Meeting the contemporary challenges in healthcare requires a concerted action by health professionals. They should practise interdependently aiming to achieve rational, safe and effective patient care. Educational institutions and associations in healthcare should take a leadership role to lay the foundations for health professionals to perform in a team.

In 1968 George Miller from the Centre for the Study of Medical Education at the University of Illinois in the United States stated that "the health needs of society can no longer be met by physicians alone, but require the concerted attention of a growing band of related health professions." This statement which was put forward thirty-seven years ago still holds today. The common interest of members of all health professions is the patient: the provision of quality patient care and patient safety. Given the large number of health professionals that contribute to patient care, there is considerable danger that if they do not communicate effectively, patient risks could increase.

The patient is the focus around which interdisciplinary programmes are most likely to succeed. With this in mind, each health professional can contribute by sharing his/her knowledge and insight for the benefit of all. The more members in the team, the more effective and stronger the team becomes.

The complexity of the care environment has today evolved beyond the ability of any one profession to keep track and manage all the information.

A new reality

Health professionals share a commitment to patient welfare, to the provision of quality patient care and to ensuring patient safety. The complexity of the care environment has today evolved beyond the ability of any one profession to keep track and manage all the information. The new reality involves learning together, communicating with other health professionals and evolving professionally together.

Practising in the 21st century, health professionals are faced with tremendous scientific and technological advances and with better educated and more pro-active consumers. In this environment, when professionals try to act as individual caregivers, medication errors may occur and patient safety may be compromised.

Learning together

For teamwork to be achieved individuals should fulfil their functional role, inherent to their own profession, as well as participating within the team as a member. Each health professional has to invest a small amount of time up-front to allow for effective communication, building the team and creating a common mental model. It is not easy for members of the health professions to flatten the hierarchy and establish communication channels, nor is learning together easy. However it is worth the effort, because learning together implies face to face discussions during which mutual interests are explored and overlapping problems pursued. The nature of the interaction among groups is influenced by individual personalities, a perception of the professional roles and the

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A Few Words

Who's Who

Marie Caroline Husson (France)

Marie Caroline Husson is the newly elected French representative on the General Committee. However she is not new to ESCP having been a member since 1990, a member of the SIG Medicine Information since 1996, and a member of the Research and Education Committee (now the RESP) as well as being chair of the Publications Committee.

Marie Caroline graduated as a pharmacist in 1975. She read for a Masters degree in Pharmacology and obtained certificates in toxicology and clinical pharmacology, pharmaceutical deontology and law, and in chronobiology. She has been practising as a hospital pharmacist since 1983. Marie Caroline served

as the Director of the French Drug Information Centre between 1989 and 2004 and is now the Director of the Medicinal Products Information System in France. Her unit is in charge of developing and disseminating among health professionals a national database, firstly on drugs (www.theriaque.org) and secondly on medicinal products.

Marie Caroline is also the chief editor of the *Dossier du CNHIM*, which is the French drug evaluation review; a member of the editorial committee for the journal of the French Society of Clinical Pharmacy; and a reviewer for Pharmacy World Science (PWS). Marie Caroline Husson has served as the elected Secretary General of the French Society of Clinical Pharmacy since 1997. ●

"I hope that my involvement in the General Committee for the next 4 years will be as exciting as the experience I have had for the last 13 years in the REC, now the RESP – Research, Education, SIGs and Publications Committee – particularly in the field of publications and reviewing abstracts.



You can be sure that I will continue to do my best to develop clinical pharmacy in order to increase positive outcomes for patients, and to strengthen the links between colleagues from all European countries.

I look forward to hearing from you and reading your comments very soon, at: mariecaroline.husson@wanadoo.fr."

The 27th ESCP General Assembly

For the benefit of ESCP members who were unable to attend the 27th ESCP General Assembly held on 28 October in Amsterdam, *ESCP News* reports on the key highlights.

■ **Jiri Vlcek**, President of ESCP welcomed attendees to the 27th ESCP General Assembly and announced that the two recent research projects supported by ESCP had been finalised. One addressed the management of severe fungal infections in European hospitals, while the other focused on the use of selective COX-2 inhibitors. (Results will be published shortly).

He was also pleased to announce that membership continues to increase and dual membership has now been firmly established with the Italian and French clinical pharmacy associations. He stated that both the ESCP 33rd Symposium held in Prague in October 2004 and the 5th ESCP Spring Conference held in Stockholm were very successful, attracting over 1,000 and 700 participants respectively.

He also presented the proposed changes to the ESCP Constitution, that the General Committee (GC) had been working on throughout the year. The General Assembly approved these revisions and opted for adopting the revised Constitution to reflect the new ESCP committee structure, namely the RESP (Research, Education, SIGs and Publications committees).

■ **Jeroen van Liempd**, ESCP Executive Director - appointed in May - said that a new SIG on palliative care was being considered. He also commented on the positive feedback from members on the developments in the ESCP website and the newsletter and reported that the General Committee and RESP were now looking into developing a 3-5 year strategic plan.

■ **Francesca Venturini**, Chair of the RESP reported on the activities within the RESP, stating that the Education Committee had developed a new conference format for 2007. She also announced that they had actively been working on developing clinical pharmacy courses - three courses in patient-centred clinical pharmacy teaching will be held in The Netherlands, Malta and Austria.

Francesca thanked Marie Caroline Husson who had come to the end of her term as Chair of the Publications Committee and welcomed Foppe van Mil (The Netherlands) as her successor. She also noted that the SIG Geriatrics was in the process of being re-activated with Louise Mallet (Canada) acting as the co-ordinator.

■ **Jiri Vlcek** thanked Jacqueline Grassin (France) and Elisabeth Grimm Baettig (Switzerland) for their contributions towards ESCP during their term as GC members. The GC welcomed Marie Caroline Husson (France) and Johnny Beney (Switzerland) as new members and Erik Gerbrands (The Netherlands) was appointed Treasurer.

■ **Gert Laekeman**, ESCP Vice-President presented the upcoming 2006 meetings in Vilnius and Vienna, and explained the options being considered for 2007 (Scotland and Greece) and 2008 (Belgium and Italy). ●

Presentation of the ESCP 2004 Awards

During each annual fall symposium, ESCP presents two awards: the Best Poster award and the Best Oral Communication award. The awards include a free registration for the following ESCP fall symposium during which the winners are presented with their awards.



In the opening ceremony of this year's fall symposium held in Amsterdam, Erik Gerbrands, President of the Symposium, presented the 2004 Best Poster award to Alena Linhartova from the Pharmacy Department at the Thomayer Teaching Hospital in Prague in the Czech Republic. The 2004 Best Oral Communication award was handed to Wilma Denneboom from the Centre for Quality Care Research at Nijmegen in The Netherlands. Both enjoyed participation in Amsterdam symposium as part of their 2004 award package.

Winners of the 2005 awards were selected in Amsterdam by the awards jury consisting of Marie Caroline Husson (France), Chair of the abstract review process and Chair of the Publications Committee; Erik Gerbrands (NL), President of the Symposium; Sam Salek (UK); Martin Schulz (Germany) and Sara Arenas-Lopez (UK). Those winners will be announced in a future issue of *ESCP News*.

1. Alena Linhartova and Wilma Denneboom the winners of the 2004 ESCP Awards
2. Jan-Kees Huyts presenting the award to Harm Geers

Recognising Community Pharmacy-based Research Projects

The Health Base Foundation award has been conferred annually since 1997 to encourage community pharmacists to present projects at the ESCP fall symposium and to acknowledge community pharmacists' involvement in pharmacy practice research.



The award is presented by the Health Base Foundation (HBF) which is a non-profit independent organisation founded in 1990 by community pharmacists and general practitioners. Based in The Netherlands, HBF provides a database with emphasis on medication surveillance, individualised patient drug information, drug formularies, protocols and guidelines for pharmaceutical and medical care. General practitioners and community pharmacists who use the HBF database in their computer systems currently provide medication surveillance for 7 million Dutch patients which is equivalent to 40% of the Dutch population.

This year, the jury consisted of Jan-Kees Huyts, Managing Director of HBF, Han de Gier, Chair of the Scientific Committee for the Amsterdam Symposium, Francesca Venturini, RESP Chair, and Romaldas Maciulaitis, Chair of the Scientific Committee for the Spring Conference in Vilnius.

The award winning project

The HBF 2005 award was presented to Harm C. J. Geers from the Department of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacotherapy at the Utrecht Institute for Pharmaceutical Sciences, The Netherlands by Jan-Kees Huyts during the closing ceremony of the Amsterdam symposium.

The project which was presented as an oral communication entitled

'Does short-term non-compliance predict long-term non-compliance in ambulatory patients?' was co-authored with Antoine A.C.G. Egberts, Eibert E.R. Heerdink and Kees C.J. de Blaey. The objective of this study was to assess whether short-term refill non-compliance is a valid predictor of long-term non-compliance. A retrospective cohort study, using a prescription database of a community pharmacy which serves around 12.000 patients in a town in a rural area in The Netherlands, was undertaken. Prescriptions for ambulatory patients which were repeated at least five times between July 1997 and December 2003, and which continued for at least one year, were reviewed.

The number of prescriptions in one year was identified and the refill non-compliance at the second, third, fourth and fifth refill was estimated. Non-compliance in long-term users depended on four factors: the age of the patient (for patients older than 60 years non-compliance was higher); the number of prescriptions in one year (patients with 30 prescriptions or less in one year had a higher non-compliance); the number of drugs prescribed; and the refill compliance at the second, third, fourth and fifth refill. This showed that short-term non-compliance is an easy parameter which can be used to identify patients who would require more intensive pharmacist intervention to avoid long-term non-compliance.

Experiencing ESCP's 34th Annual Symposium



"Two years ago, at the Valencia Symposium, I started asking people to join the Scientific Committee (SC) and also looked for members for the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for our Amsterdam Symposium. In the first few months of 2004 we discussed, as a small group, what the main theme of our Symposium would be. Once the RESP and the GC had approved the title, we focused on the programme, shared ideas about possible speakers and then invited them. We further discussed the possible workshops that could address various aspects of the theme. At the same time the LOC was working on the practical elements of the Symposium.

As we got closer to the end of October 2005 everything started to take shape. And when it was finally time for the opening even the weather was on our side!

We welcomed close to 1.000 participants to the very nice RAI congress centre. We got many positive remarks from a lot of people. Of course, not everything was perfect, but as a whole I believe this Symposium was successful.

I would like to thank everybody that helped to make it such a success: the members of the SC and the LOC, the staff from the International Office in Brussels, the exhibitors and sponsors and last but not least the participants!"

Erik Gerbrands
President of the Symposium

The 34th Annual Symposium of the ESCP was held from 26 to 29 October in Amsterdam in The Netherlands. The Symposium was organised jointly with the Netherlands Society of Hospital Pharmacists (NVZA) and the Royal Dutch Association for the Advancement of Pharmacy (KNMP) and took place in the Amsterdam RAI conference centre.

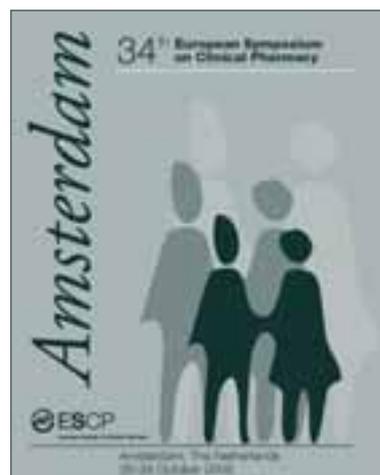
During the opening ceremony Jiri Vicek, President of ESCP urged delegates to share their experiences in clinical pharmacy with other participants from different countries. Marga van Weelden, President of KNMP discussed the pressures faced by the pharmacy profession from governments and insurance companies. Martin Schuitenmaker, President of NVZA stated that the aims of NVZA to support hospital pharmacists were totally aligned with those of ESCP. He further presented some background on the hospitals which make up around 110.000 beds in The Netherlands. Martin Schuitenmaker stated that unexplained toxicity or differences in response to drugs may be due to genetic differences thus making pharmacogenetics and genotyping important issues in clinical therapeutics and patient care.

Pre-symposium activities

As in previous years, different pre-symposium activities were organised. This year, the Masterclass in Search of Excellence, organised by the SIG Cancer Care and led by Vincent Launay-Vacher and Jean-Baptiste Rey, both from France, addressed renal function and supportive care in cancer patients. Additionally, the 7th EPSA-ESCP Students' Symposium on 'Student Profiling: Finding the Future Clinical Pharmacist' was held by the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA) prior to the symposium.

Evening plenary lecture

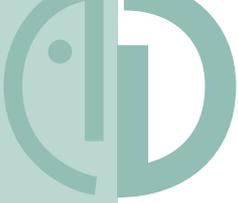
The congress kicked off with the evening plenary lecture held at the Royal Tropical Institute which is an independent centre of knowledge and expertise in the areas of international and intercultural co-operation.



Marc Heppener who is the head of the scientific research on the International Space Station at the European Space Agency presented a very interesting overview on health research in space. The European Space Agency (ESA) is a collaborative venture of 17 European countries and its largest facility is hosted in Noordwijk in The Netherlands which is where most of ESA's spacecraft technology development takes place. During the lecture Marc Heppener provided information regarding the background on the International Space Station project and went on to supply details of research carried out under conditions of weightlessness such as a bed-rest study.

Scientific programme

The Scientific Committee was chaired by Han de Gier (The Netherlands) and consisted of Ruud Delsing, Erik Gerbrands, Henk-Jan Guchelaar and Stephanie Natsch from The Netherlands; Steve Hudson, Pat Murray and Sam Salek from the United Kingdom; Luis Maria Mendarte Barrenechea from Spain and Martin Schulz from Germany. The scientific programme for the three days of the symposium



was organised around the main theme of 'Patient Profiling: Key to Successful Treatment.'

The first day chaired by Han de Gier addressed 'The dimensions of patient treatment individualisation.' The plenary sessions were presented by Geoff Tucker (UK) who looked at the implications of pharmacogenetics in practice, and by Maria Augusta Soares who presented personal experiences from Portugal on patient profiling.

The second day, chaired by Martin Schulz was dedicated to 'Methods of patient treatment individualisation: genetic, pathologic, social.' Heyo Kroemer (Germany) stated that in healthcare health professionals are faced with dilemmas on how to detect an individual genotype and how predictive the individual genotype is for the outcome. He used examples of the occurrence of side-effects with pravastatin. Methods that can be used in clinical practice for genotyping were also presented. During the same plenary session, Henk-Jan Guchelaar (The Netherlands) discussed the application of pharmacogenomics to routine clinical practice in an integrated care scenario.

During the third day the ethical issues of pharmacogenetics were presented by Sandy Thomas (UK), while Kim Brosen (Denmark) looked at

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Your combined support of, and participation in, ESCP's 34th Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy provided additional interest and balance to the meeting, complementing what was a successful and highly regarded educational event.

Your valuable contribution strongly helps ESCP to pursue the development of safe and rational use of medicines and medical devices.

We thank you and look forward to your participation in future ESCP educational activities.



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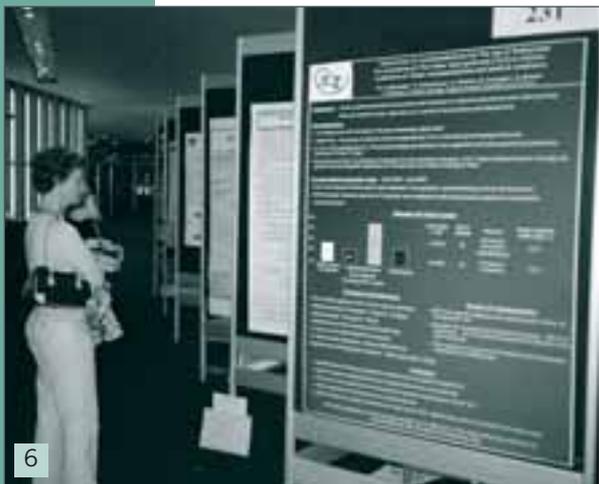
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'Personalised medicine in the post-genomic era: Fact or fantasy?' The chair of the day was Ruud Dessing from The Netherlands.

Arthritis. The updates were presented by Carole Callaghan and Lorraine Perry from the United Kingdom and Aygin Bayraktar from Turkey. The first two updates summarised the aetiology and pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis. The use of drugs for symp-

Pharmacotherapy updates

This year, the daily Pharmacotherapy Updates focused on Rheumatoid

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1. Erik Gerbrands, President of the Symposium
2. Marga van Weelden, President of KNMP, addressing participants during the Opening Ceremony
3. Han de Gier, Chair Scientific Committee, chairing the first day of the symposium with the theme The Dimensions of Patient Treatment Individualisation
4. Maria Augusta Soares, Portugal during the plenary lecture on Principles of Patient Profiling for the Provision of Pharmaceutical Care
5. Lorraine Perry, United Kingdom, one of the speakers in the Pharmacotherapy Update lectures on Rheumatoid Arthritis
6. Participants viewing the over 200 posters presented
7. Participants at one of the Oral Communications sessions



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tomatic relief and the use of the different disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs were presented and discussed. During the third session, two cases of rheumatoid arthritis were presented for discussion.

Workshops

During the symposium, SIGs held workshops on: pharmacokinetics in children (SIG Paediatrics); developing pharmaceutical care services for type II diabetes (SIG Integrated Care); teaching in practice: communicating with patients (SIG Education and Training); computer-assisted individualisation of patient nutritional care (SIG Nutritional Support); and successful scientific writing: abstracts and original papers (SIG Medicine Information). Other workshops were held on pharmaceutical care in cardiovascular disease, patient profiles in the community pharmacy setting, cost-effective use of antibiotics in hospitals and genetic profiling in psychiatry.

The scientific programme was further enhanced by oral communications and poster presentations. Overall, 297 abstracts were received and 226 were accepted for presentation at the symposium with 18 papers presented as oral communication and 28 papers presented during poster discussion sessions.

motivation of the individual members of the team. A mutual exploration of issues and a joint search for solutions are essential. All must learn and all must teach.

The European Society of Clinical Pharmacy is developing clinical pharmacy teaching courses at the



Social programme

The Welcome Reception was hosted at the Royal Tropical Institute and the Cultural Evening was held at the Maritime Museum which is housed in the National Naval Depot, a former arsenal of the Dutch Navy more than 300 years old. Participants had the opportunity to board a replica of the Dutch East Indiaman, the vessel which was used for commercial activities in the east.

The Farewell Party, held at the Grand Amsterdam, brought the four days of learning and exchange to a spectacular close as participants enjoyed the sounds provided by a band entirely composed of Dutch pharmacists.

Conclusion

During the closing ceremony, Erik Gerbrands handed over the ESCP flag to Elfriede Dolinar President of the next ESCP annual symposium that will be held in Vienna from 18 to 21 October 2006.



Participate in ESCP activities and you will experience a networking environment between old and new friends. See you in Lithuania for the 6th ESCP Spring Conference on Clinical Pharmacy, 25-27 May 2006. ●

Lilian M. Azzopardi
Malta

8. The Medicine Chest kept on board the vessel the Dutch East Indiaman as presented at the Maritime Museum
9. The Maritime Museum where the cultural evening was hosted
10. ESCP conference.... Networking amongst pharmacists in Europe: Henk Buurma, The Netherlands and Steve Hudson, United Kingdom having a good discussion during the cultural evening
11. Jeroen van Liempd, Executive Director, and Geraldine Damar, Community Manager, from the International Office
12. Erik Gerbrands handing over the ESCP flag to Elfriede Dolinar, President of the next ESCP fall symposium to be held in Vienna

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

patients' bedside. These are being organised in different countries (Netherlands, Malta and Austria). During these courses teaching plans and pharmaceutical care plans are developed by the participants which require collaboration between different health profes-

sionals, with pharmacists interacting with the medical and nursing teams. These courses support the development of clinical pharmacy in Europe as well as provide a practical experience of teaching in an interdisciplinary scenario. ●

Lilian M. Azzopardi

Pharmacy and Medical Students Join Forces

The first ever worldwide symposium for pharmacy and medical students was organised this year by a joint working group of four student associations.

The Joint Working Group was established between four student associations with a vision for healthcare professionals worldwide to co-operate effectively with their colleagues in other healthcare disciplines for the benefit of patients. The associations are: the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF), the International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA), the



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European Pharmaceutical Students Association (EPSA) and the European Medical Students Association (EMSA). Around 300 students from pharmacy, medicine and nursing participated in the first ever World MaPS symposium, organised by the Joint Working Group in Malta from 7 to 12 November 2005.

During the symposium students got together in order to overcome traditional professional roles and boundaries by discussing interdisciplinary healthcare and education. Dr. Emily Spry on behalf of the Joint Working Group stated that “we hope that this is the start of an explosion in healthcare students’ mutual understanding and co-operation.”



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The ESCP – SIFO Fellowship

Each year the Italian Society of Hospital Pharmacy (Società Italiana di Farmacia Ospedaliera, SIFO) grants five stipends to promote participation of Italian pharmacists at ESCP symposia.



SIFO stipends recipients at ESCP's 34th Symposium in Amsterdam. From left to right: F. Bardelli, V. Zampardi, S. Adami, M. Grandesso

The aim of this initiative, which has been organised since 2001, is to disseminate knowledge of clinical pharmacy among Italian pharmacists and allow them to network with colleagues from across Europe.

To receive the grant, pharmacists must be SIFO associates and have an abstract accepted for presentation (either poster, poster discussion forum or oral communication) at the ESCP symposium.

This year stipends were awarded to: Silvia Adami (Verona), Maria Rita Badagliacca (Caltanissetta), Filippo Bardelli (Pistoia), Manuela

Grandesso (Verona) and Valentina Zampardi (Palermo). All the pharmacists successfully submitted an abstract for the 34th European Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The topics of the abstracts ranged from epidemiological studies (a survey on pressure ulcers in nursing homes; an analysis of compassionate use of protocols submitted to ethical committees; and a prescription analysis of antihypertensive drugs usage in the community) to educational programmes (participation of clinical pharmacists in nursing education) and drug information

1. Speakers at the Opening Ceremony, Professor John Rizzo Naudi, Chancellor of the University of Malta, H.E. Dr Vincent Tabone, former President of the Republic of Malta and an ophthalmologist, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef, Rector of the University of Malta
2. Participants at the World MaPS conference
3. Philip Amato Gauci, President World MaPS 2005
4. Emily Spry addressing the Opening Ceremony

(medication errors managed by a drug information service).

In line with this initiative, SIFO reached an agreement with ESCP in 2003 in order to provide its Italian members with dual membership to both societies at a discounted rate. The hope is that many national societies around Europe will follow this path, in order to have clinical pharmacy spread out all over Europe. Further information is available from the ESCP International Office.

Francesca Venturini

ESCP RESP Chair
 SIFO Scientific Committee member

Membership Renewal

Do not forget to renew your membership for 2006 and encourage your colleagues to join and enjoy the benefits of becoming a member of ESCP.

Membership in ESCP is open to clinical pharmacists, researchers and other healthcare professionals who work in any of the following environments: community, hospital, academic, industry or any other

healthcare setting. Pharmacy students are also invited to become members of ESCP.

Being a member of ESCP allows you to contribute towards and actively participate in the growth of the clinical pharmacy profession. Young pharmacists are especially encouraged to join ESCP to ensure the future development of the profession.

Season's Greetings

The ESCP General Committee, *ESCP News* and the International Office would like to extend season's greetings to all ESCP members and warmest wishes for a peaceful and happy New Year.

For Your Diary ESCP Conferences

2006

25-27 May	Vilnius Lithuania	6 th Spring Conference on Clinical Pharmacy Chronic Disease Management: the Role of the Pharmacist
18-21 October	Vienna Austria	35 th European Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy The Role of Communication in Patient Safety and Pharmacotherapy Effectiveness

Important dates

- **6th Spring Conference on Clinical Pharmacy**, Vilnius, Lithuania

Abstract submission deadline 30 January 2006

Refer to the ESCP website for details and electronic submission

Early bird registration deadline 31 March 2006

Further information is available at: www.escpweb.org

Announcements



European Society of Clinical Pharmacy

ESCP News is published by ESCP
Editor: Marie Caroline Husson (France)
Co-ordinator: Lilian M. Azzopardi (Malta)
Technical Editing, Design & Production: MCI

ESCP International Office
300, Avenue de Tervueren
B-1150 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32-2-743 1542 Fax: +32-2-743 1550
E-mail: info@escpweb.org
www.escpweb.org

The contents of this publication are compiled in good faith. The publisher accepts no responsibility for omissions or errors.

Deadline for the submission of material for issue number 128 is 20 January 2006.