



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

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News

Vilnius: a Baltic Experience with Perspective

Gert Laekeman, ESCP Vice President, reports on the Spring Conference held last May in Vilnius, and shares his feelings on Lithuania's future development.

Arriving in Vilnius made a good feeling. From the pretty small airport a modern taxi brought us within 20 minutes to the lively city centre. Large, partly car-free streets, green areas, stylish buildings and an impressive amount of churches, catholic and orthodox: this was what we got as a first impression.

The Reval hotel Lietuva with a sky bar on the 24th floor guaranteed a professional congress environment. The theme of the 6th Spring Conference on Clinical Pharmacy: "Chronic Disease Management: the Role of the Pharmacist" left us with a challenge.

Committed partners

Eduardas Tarasevicius and Romaldas Maciulaitis were the Conference President and the Scientific Committee Chair respectively. Romaldas is a pharmacist and a medical doctor with a specialty in nephrology, but as he stated, he is a clinical pharmacist in the first instance. From the first informal evening in Belmontas until the closing ceremony, they revealed to be perfect partners in organisation.

Variety of themes

Hypertension, cardiovascular diseases in general, prescribing by pharmacists in this field and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV, were the main topics of the plenary lectures. These scientific subjects were well elaborated. A possible role of the clinical pharmacist in the support care of chronic patients was repeatedly illustrated with examples.

Pharmacists in the UK and the USA are allowed to prescribe between well-defined limits and to run ambulatory care units. It was demonstrated in Turkey that, when patients suffering from tuberculosis received pharmacist directed practical drug-related education, their adherence to therapy was superior as compared to those receiving routine care. In France, pharmacists are engaged in teaching HIV-patients about daily management of the disease.

Wide choice of sessions

During the conference, workshops were repeated to enable an optimal attendance. The workshops dealt with compliance and concordance, medication reviews, lipid profile management, formulating good research questions, interdisciplinary contacts between health professionals and caring for asthma, HIV and osteoporosis patients.



"Lithuania is, together with Estonia and Latvia, one of the newest members in the EMEA Commission based in London. They have their voice in the European Medicines Policy. Since the 6th Spring Conference in Vilnius their voice is also being heard throughout ESCP!"

The pharmacotherapeutic updates were highly appreciated.

The afternoon plenary lectures were devoted to paediatrics. It was nice to see pharmacists perform in this field of highly specialised pathology and pharmacotherapy.

During the anonymous refereeing procedure, 153 abstracts were

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A Few Words

ESCP Welcomes New Members

158 new members from 38 countries have joined ESCP in the last year. They join ESCP's global community of members from 57 countries. The majority (89%) are located in Europe. Of these, 19% is represented by members from the new EU member states. The rest come from 11 countries across North America, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and Africa.

Australia

Violet Ford
Jennifer Marriott

Austria

Walter Jaeger
Alice Poier

Belgium

Stéphanie Arman
Françoise Biot
Pieter-Jan Cortoos
Francis Evenepoel
Marijke Fostier
Vanessa Galand
Steven Simoens
Jens Van Krieken

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Alija Uzunovic

Canada

Jean-François Guevin
John Hawboldt
Chum Van Duong

Croatia

Danijela Jonjic

Czech Republic

Martina Marikova

Denmark

Kim Brosen

Estonia

Merje Ambo
Juri Arjakse
Virge Avestik
Lauri Bender
Piia Kuslap
Jana Lass
Helve Monvelt
Marje Saarsoo
Julia Zingel

Finland

Lea Heikkinen

France

Charles Eric Bornet
Claudie Bouilloux
Pascal Bouniot
Corinne Cahard
Virginie Chopard
Mikael Daouphars
Vianney Descroix
Marie-Catherine Desroches
Xavier Dode

Edith Dufay

Luc Foroni
Gael Lidouren
Georges Malicki
Frederic Martin
Philippe Passe
Bertrand Pourroy
Elise Remy

Germany

Ave Arjukese
Susanne Roth
Oliver Schwalbe

Greece

George Giagoudakis
Emmanuel Haliasos

Hungary

Livia Safran

Iceland

Kristin Ingvarsdottir

Israel

Salim Hadad
Elianora Khair

Italy

Silvia Adami
Nicoletta Ambrogi
Sara Bellugi
Gabriella Bertino
Chiara Bollettieri
Gianni Bregola
Loredana Capobianco
Giuseppe Caravella
Elena Clerici
Rita Consiglio
Davide De Tuzza
Lorena Di Simone
Rosalba Di Tommaso
Bernardo Esposito
Maria Cristina Ferrara
Francesca Francavilla
Leopoldo Ghetti
Manuela Grandesso
Maria Felicita Liscia
Erica Magni
Francesco Mando'
Isabella Marone
Silvia Murachelli
Lucilla Paliaga
Paola Paochi
Claudio Pennestre
Francesca Peron
Brunella Piro
Cristina Randoni
Marina Rizzica

Francesca Romagnuolo
Battistina Sanna
Emilia Scotti
Santina Senatore
Anna Maria Toffano
Mariarosa Tongiani

Japan

Masaharu Takeyama

Kuwait

Abdelmoneim Awad

Latvia

Dace Bandere
Sandra Edite Berzina
Inese Sviestina

Lithuania

Elita Juodelyte
Loreta Kubiliene
Omar Mneimneh
Nijole Obrikiene
Dalia Ozoliene

Macedonia

Kristina Mladenovska

Malaysia

Hwee Pheng Tan

New Zealand

Claire Sheerin

Norway

Thomas Backstrom
Camilla Bjornstad
Beate Hedding
Kristin Larssen
Torill Merethe Skudal
Anne-Lise Reiersen
Anne Sverdrup Efstjed

Oman

Fatma Alraisi
Zahra Hassan

Poland

Marcin Kargul
Tomasz Reszka
Miroslaw Szeligowski
Beata Welk
Dorota Ziolkowska

Portugal

Dinah Duarte
Sofia Oliveira Martins
Ivana Silva

Saudi Arabia

Khalaf Ali Aljhmaah

Mashael Alshaikh

Rajesh Thalapparambath

Slovenia

Natasa Cater
Lidija Pavlovic

Spain

Francisco Araujo
Mercedes Arenere Mendoza
Raquel Garcia Sanchez
Noemi Lopez de Castro
Luis Margusino Framinan
Maria Angeles Porta Sanchez
Maria Yanez Martinez

Sudan

Sumia S. Mohamed

Switzerland

Viviane Amos
Claudia Broggin

The Netherlands

Anneke Groenhuijzen
Susanne Gabriele Schorr
Jochum Van Der Wal
Frans Van de Vaart
Jasperien Van Doormaal
Rianne Zaal

Turkey

Aylim Acar Sancar
Onur Arikan
Aysen Dincer
Fatmagul Donmez

Ukraine

Hrem Oksana
Lyubov Zaruma

United Kingdom

Ruth Ackers
Carole Callaghan
Anne Katrin Greschner
Karen Hodson
Hilary McKee
Norman Morrow
Simon Shepherd
Maysa Suyagh
Helen Williams

USA

William Simonson

Meeting Pharmacists from Turkey and Croatia

ESCP News met with two pharmacists from Turkey and Croatia who attended the 6th ESCP Spring Conference and satisfied the criteria to benefit from ESCP's financial support to participate in the conference.

Aylin Acar (Turkey)

Aylin is a pharmacist who has very recently joined the Pharmaceutical Care Unit at Marmara University. Aylin will be participating in clinical pharmacy projects run by the unit in collaboration with the medical faculty. Previously, Aylin was a research assistant at Hacettepe University in Ankara and read for a Masters in Pharmacy Management. Aylin is married to Mesut Sancar, a pharmacist from Marmara University who regularly attends ESCP's meetings. Both Aylin and Mesut are very active in the Turkish Society of Clinical Pharmacy.

During the conference Aylin presented a poster on the use of vancomycin and teicoplanin in a Turkish University Hospital.



Aylin Acar (right) with Lilian Azzopardi and a conference participant

The poster was co-authored with Selen Yegenoglu, Nimet Simsek, and Serhat Unal from Hacettepe University and with Maarten J. Postma from Groningen University, The Netherlands. The aim of the study was to perform a cost-analysis of the use of vancomycin and teicoplanin in the treatment of

gram-positive infections at the Internal Medicine Clinic of Hacettepe University Hospital. The average therapy costs per patient were US\$ 1,481 for teicoplanin and US\$ 1,295 for vancomycin. Statistical analysis showed that there is no significant difference between costs for treatment with either drug. However more adverse reactions were observed with vancomycin and teicoplanin requires less nursing time for drug administration since it is administered once a day.

The authors conclude that prescribers opt for vancomycin because they think it is cheaper. Information sessions for prescribers and health professionals at Hacettepe University Hospital on the use of teicoplanin are now planned.

Vesna Rosovic-Bazijanac (Croatia)

Vesna has been a member of ESCP for the past six years and she has been participating regularly in ESCP's conferences. She currently practices in a paediatric hospital and for this reason she attends SIG paediatrics sessions which she finds very interesting.

Vesna graduated from Zagreb University of Pharmacy and Biochemistry and has practiced at the University Hospital Centre for 33 years. The hospital has three localities, one of which is dedicated to paediatrics. Vesna is the director of the pharmacy in the paediatric centre in Rijeka which consists of 120 beds. She is also a member of the Drug and Therapeutics Committee. The main activities in the pharmacy are dispensing for in-patient use and



Vesna Rosovic-Bazijanac and Lilian Azzopardi at the ESCP desk

extemporaneous preparations. She participates in discussions on pharmacotherapy with prescribers. However since she is the only pharmacist in her centre she feels she needs more support to be able to establish clinical pharmacy services.

Vesna presented a poster on the prescribing trends of drugs acting on the central nervous system at the

University Hospital Centre of Rijeka. The aim of the study was to detect the most frequently prescribed drugs from the ATC-N group over a four-year period and to assess the financial implications. The most frequently prescribed drug was diazepam with a consumption of 25 Daily Defined Doses per 100 bed-days. Commonly prescribed drugs that contributed to the highest drug costs were fentanyl, fluphenazine and tramadol. This study has provided the required data to identify areas where prescribing trends could be improved. Guidelines on the use of benzodiazepines and analgesics are being reviewed and information sessions for health professionals are presented. ●

In Memoriam: an Appreciation of Rene Mach

Jiri Vicek, ESCP President, remembers Rene Mach, an established and esteemed professional, a colleague, a friend.

The Czech clinical pharmacy community has lost a very good specialist in clinical pharmacy. On 13 July 2006 pharmacist Dr Rene Mach died on the Alps at Les Droites (4,000 metres high) at the young age of 39 years.

Rene participated in a number of ESCP's symposia and was a member of the Organising Committee of the Prague meeting held in 2004. In the Czech Republic Rene was the owner of three pharmacies and managed more than 50 employees. He had very good relations with other health professionals in the city of Breclav (Moravia, Czech Republic). His first pharmacy was close to the Hospital and Information System (HIS), where he served as a hospital pharmacy consultant. This HIS system is available in the Czech Republic and includes structured information about prescribed drugs to individual patients, diagnosis and results of clinical tests.

Clinical pharmacy development

Rene tried to develop clinical pharmacy in his pharmacies. He demonstrated how clinical pharmacy can be practiced in the community pharmacy as well as in the hospital setting, and that sometimes it is more important in the community setting because patients with chronic diseases - and therefore at higher risks - visit regularly the community pharmacy. Rene established a section in the pharmacy where the pharmacist can counsel the patient in privacy. During such a session the pharmacist can discuss with the patient the pharmacotherapy and provide information on how to reduce risk from therapy.

Rene started to co-operate with a pharmacy Software Company to develop drug information programmes and presented the first software in the Czech Republic which gives a warning about potential drug interactions during dispensing. This programme became available in about one third of the Czech pharmacies.

Seminars across Czech Republic

Several years ago he started to train actively his team. We organised together regular monthly seminars, sometimes also with the participation of other health professionals, where we discussed cases. We made available this kind of case discussions to the whole republic through the support of the Pharmaceutical Chamber. We organised lectures for different areas of the Czech Republic and started to train colleagues regularly in different districts. I believe this is only one way how to improve the ability of pharmacists to participate in the management of pharmacotherapy. During these seminars Rene participated very actively by preparing the cases for discussion. He was capable to identify problems in pharmacotherapy and to suggest improvements. Rene was unique from this perspective. Two years ago, Rene then extrapolated this idea to organise similar seminars directed towards pharmacy technicians.

We wanted to develop a Centre of Pharmaceutical Care in Rene's pharmacy. He accepted a lot of students and showed them good pharmaceutical care practice and involved them in hospital ward visits. He read for a PhD in clinical pharmacy and has a paper for review in the journal Pharmacy World & Science (PWS) on the "Impact of a multidisciplinary approach on antibiotic consumption, cost and microbial resistance in a general hospital in the Czech Republic - the role of hospital pharmacist".



Rene knew that documentation is necessary, and so he started to develop electronic patient records in co-operation with a software company. In co-operation with the faculty of pharmacy he participated in PhD programmes aiming at enhancing the applicability into practice of the projects.

Wine harvest of clinical pharmacy

Rene served as a scientific secretary and for 7 years as president of the so called "Wine harvest of clinical pharmacy", an event that attracts an average of 250 delegates every year. We have chosen the title "Wine harvest of clinical pharmacy" for this activity because it is held in the area of Moravia where wine is produced and where Rene's pharmacies are located. The title "Wine harvest" is used to describe results of clinical pharmacy projects of the year before.

An example of commitment

Rene was a pillar of clinical pharmacy in the Czech Republic though he was not doing it for himself but for his patients. He believed that in hospital and even in community settings, pharmacists together with their team provide patients with a professional service. However for this service pharmacies need to be regularly maintained and particularly promote an area of privacy and the pharmacy team needs to take up regular professional updates.

We need pharmacists like Rene in the whole of Europe. We need this kind of

Election Results ESCP General Committee 2006 - 2010

A General Committee member ends her term of office at the Society's General Assembly in October in Vienna. *ESCP News* introduces her successor.

ESCP is pleased to announce the election of Mr Martin Schulz from Germany to the General Committee. He will assume the position vacated by Mrs. Hannelore Kreckel.

ESCP is indebted to the hard work of Hannelore Kreckel, who served as

German representative on the GC from 2000 to 2006. Hannelore has done a tremendous job over the past years in service to the Society and to the profession of Clinical Pharmacy. We thank her for her time and commitment. ●

Election Results ESCP Executive Committee 2006 - 2008

As every other year, ESCP is getting ready for change and welcoming its new leaders.

During the General Assembly at the Vienna Symposium, ESCP will officially introduce Gert Laekeman from Belgium as the new ESCP President. For the past years, Gert

has proven an invaluable asset to the Society in all the initiatives he was involved in and ESCP looks forward to his contributions to the Society's development.

ESCP wishes all the best to Gert in his new role, and warmly thanks Jiri Vlcek for his dedication to drive the Society forward all through his presidency.

Jiri will stay part of the General and Executive Committees as immediate Past President for one more year.

Lastly, the General Committee announces that Frank Jørgensen from Norway will be appointed Vice President at the General Assembly in Vienna, succeeding Gert in this crucial role. ESCP wishes Frank well in his new role. ●

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approved as posters, short communications during poster discussion forums and oral communication sessions. Submissions from French delegates were the most prominent, followed by the Spanish and the Belgian ones.

The Spring Conference in Vilnius got a familiar taste with folk music and dance during the opening reception. Enthusiastic clinical pharmacists even practised medieval dances during the conference party at Trakai Castle where knights fought battles and fire-acrobats closed the evening.

An evolving city

Vilnius is preparing itself as a future cultural capital of Europe. New pavements are replacing anonymous concrete. Terraces are inviting tourists with affordable meals and drinks. In the cellars of the former KGB, now redone as a museum, the town hides the remains of a totalitarian regime. There is still quite a generation knowing what it means to live in a country where freedom of speech and thinking was virtually absent for more than 45 years. But in the impressive opera house, children are performing

in a marvellous song contest: young voices in a rapidly evolving country. Lithuania is, together with Estonia and Latvia, one of the newest members in the EMEA Commission based in London. They have their voice in the European Medicines Policy. Since the 6th Spring Conference in Vilnius their voice is also being heard throughout ESCP! ●

Gert Laekeman
ESCP Vice President

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leaders but there is always a lack of such people who are able to move pharmacy services forward towards clinical pharmacy. Rene showed us that it is possible to develop pharmaceutical care in a difficult situation of a changing society.

His death is a big loss to Czech and European clinical pharmacy. I was lucky that I was a friend of his and that we worked together for pharmacy. We need to look for these people – only together we are able to launch ESCP's ideas. Thank you, Rene. ●

Jiri Vlcek
ESCP President
Chair of the Section of Clinical Pharmacy of the Pharmaceutical Society of Medical Association JEP
Czech Republic



The Role of Communication on the Danube

Vienna, capital city of Austria and world's capital of music, will host the forthcoming ESCP Symposium: an overview of what to expect from the programme.

The 35th ESCP European Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy on "The Role of Communication in Patient Safety and Pharmacotherapy Effectiveness" promises to be an excellent platform for international exchange, having clinical pharmacists from Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Canada and many European countries already registered to attend it.

Expanding on key themes such as the communication with the patient, the impact of patient information on pharmacotherapy outcomes, and the role of the pharmacist in communication in regard to patient safety, this forthcoming Symposium represents an exciting opportunity to enhance communication skills, by learning from experts and sharing experiences with peers, during 3 intensive days featuring a variety of plenary lectures, interactive workshops, and pharmacotherapy update lectures.

An original evening plenary lecture will open the dancing on Wednesday, 18 October: the Communications Cabaret held by Jenny Simanowitz

will certainly involve participants. This theatrical mirror of the everyday life aims at raising attendees' awareness about unspoken messages, unconscious perceptions and body language.

From Thursday to Saturday three plenary lectures, one pharmacotherapy update lecture and a number of workshops and SIG workshops will run daily.

Interactive scientific programme

Each day the morning's plenary lectures elaborate on the theme of the day and are followed by a panel discussion on the topics raised. All delegates are invited to participate actively in these open discussions.

The afternoon plenary lectures, organised by the SIG Paediatrics and the SIG Cancer Care, are formatted to encourage audience's participation. In particular, the afternoon plenary lecture on Thursday will explore the problems related to paediatric medicines information leaflets, dedicating some time to the practical side of putting together information leaflets. The afternoon plenary lecture on Friday, will tackle paediatric oncology issues, aiming at showing how the specialist clinical paediatric oncology pharmacist contributes to the care of a child with cancer.

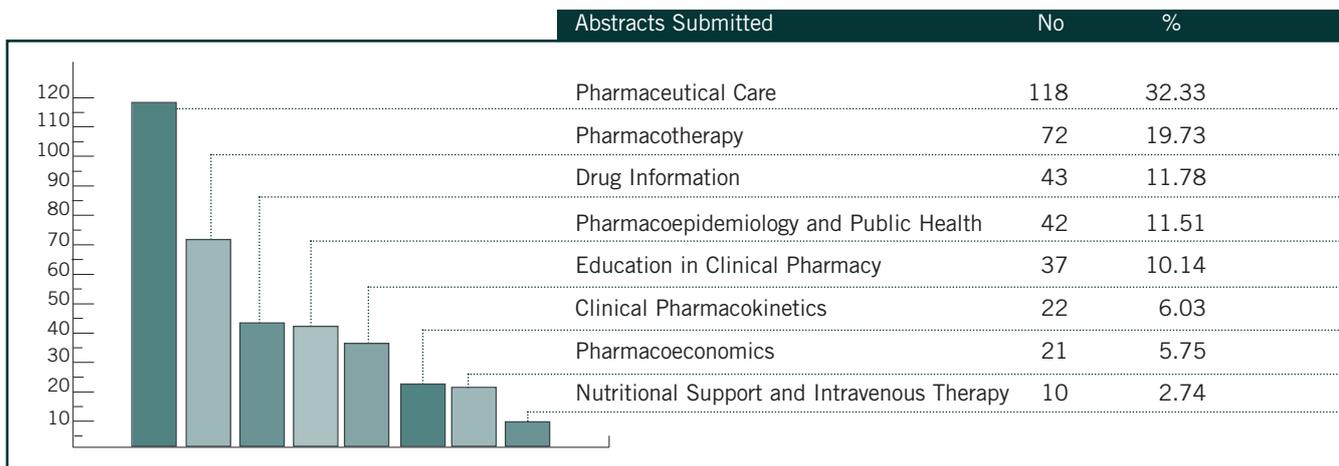
The series of pharmacotherapy lectures will present the results of two ESCP research projects, managed by members of the Research Committee, on antimycotics "Severe Fungal Infections Management and Patients' Outcome" and on cox-2 inhibitors "Eurocox".

A wide selection of workshops and SIG workshops completes the scientific programme of this fall Symposium. Cost and effectiveness of innovative products; How to write for a peer reviewed journal; Pharmacist's role in chemotherapy education; Communication tools to promote concordance and compliance with pharmacotherapy... These are only some of the many workshops offered.

More information

To view the complete scientific programme and select the sessions you wish to attend, we invite you to visit the Symposium website (www.escpweb.org/vienna). As is custom, to help delegates to better prepare for discussions, invited speakers' presentations will be posted on the website in advance of the meeting.

Besides the scientific sessions, the programme also features poster viewing sessions at lunch time and after the afternoon sessions. A total amount of 365 abstracts from





34 countries were submitted. This represents an increase of 22% as to the total of abstracts submitted for last year's Symposium in Amsterdam.

Informal networking

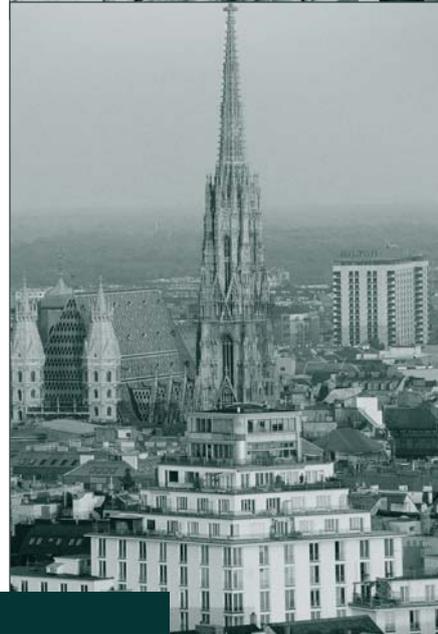
The city where many famous composers have lived will also provide the perfect background for the social programme of the Symposium.

On Wednesday evening the welcome reception will take place in Vienna's city hall, one of the most splendid monumental buildings in the city. On Thursday a very special cultural evening is foreseen at the "Haus der Musik": participants will experience firsthand with all of their senses the old language of music, by for example conducting the Vienna Philharmonic orchestra from a virtual conductor's podium, or journeying back in time to meet the great

composers of the past. On Friday participants will be offered the opportunity to meet informally in a Heuriger, or wine tavern, a uniquely Viennese institution where to enjoy local gastronomy.

Gothic and Habsburg empire buildings, museums, cosy coffee bars... While in Vienna for the Symposium, don't miss the opportunity to visit all what this city on the Danube has to offer. With many exhibitions and festivals within the celebration of the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth, Vienna will be more charming than ever. For more information on Vienna visit the tourism office website at: <http://info.wien.at>

Register before 6 October at www.escpweb.org/vienna and save € 100 !



Plenary Lectures Overview

Thursday, 19 October	Friday, 20 October	Saturday, 21 October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I Just Can't Tell You the Way it Hurts". Some Implications of (Mis-)Communication in the Expert-Client Relationship in the Health Professions <i>Florian Menz, Austria</i> • Written Information: Considering Patients as Critical Thinkers <i>Giulio Formoso, Italy</i> • SIG Paediatrics - Paediatric Medicines Information Leaflets <i>Steve Tomlin, UK</i> <i>Theo Raynor, UK</i> <i>Annic Weyersberg, UK</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients' Perspectives of Medicines and Pharmacy: Implication for Communication <i>Rob Horne, UK</i> • Health Behaviours, Drug Information and Pharmacotherapy <i>Veerle Foulon, Belgium</i> • Patient Counselling: a Multidisciplinary Approach to Improving Pharmacotherapy Outcomes <i>Roland Radziwill, Germany</i> • SIG Paediatrics & SIG Cancer Care – Paediatric Oncology <i>Judith Delaney, UK</i> <i>Sara Arenas-Lopez, UK</i> <i>Jean-Baptiste Rey, France</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Risk Management of Transplant Patients through Communication with Patients <i>Piera Polidori, Italy</i> • EMEA Communication and Transparency Policy: Framework and Current Practices with Focus on Pharmacovigilance <i>Priya Bahri, UK</i> • Apo.K – the Drug Safety Belt: a Pharmaceutical Care Model Put to Work in Austrian Community Pharmacies <i>Christian Wurstbauer, Austria</i>



Report of the 27th ESCP General Assembly

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 28 October 2005

1. Opening

The President Jiri Vlcek welcomed all attendees and opened the 27th ESCP General Assembly.

2. Report General Assembly Prague, Czech Republic, 2004

The General Assembly approved the report of the 26th General Assembly.

3. Annual report of the President

The President announced that all RESP committees have completed a number of very important tasks for the Society, showing that the structure in place is very much encouraging new activities and best practices. In regards with congresses, the fall symposium in Prague and the spring conference in Stockholm were successful both from the point of view of the number of attendees as well as for scientific content. On top of that, the ESCP membership is solid with an upward trend.

4. Approval of revised constitution of ESCP

Last year, the GC and EC started the reviewing process of the ESCP Statutes. The Presidents reports that the changes correspond to the evolution of ESCP over the years.

The General Assembly voted on the revised constitution:

- 20 members were in favour
- 7 members abstained

The revised ESCP Constitution is therefore considered approved.

5. Annual report of the Executive Director

Jeroen van Liempd, who was recently appointed as Executive Director succeeding Bruce Roudebush, reported that the General Committee is also currently developing a 3 to 5 years strategic plan that will outline the Society's priorities and goals for the future. In line with this new objective, the RESP committee are also looking into identifying their priorities for the coming years.

6. Annual report of the Treasurer

Final account 2004: report approved
Budget 2005: report of half-year results approved

Budget 2006: budget presented and voted

- 22 members were in favour
- 5 members abstained

The Budget 2006 is therefore considered approved.

7. Annual report of the RESP

Francesca Venturini, Chair of the RESP, reported on RESP activities. Research Committee: The Research Committee managed two Pan-European research projects, one on "Severe Fungal Infections' Management and Patients' Outcome in Hospitalised Patients", and the other on COX-2 Inhibitors and was conducted in collaboration with Community Pharmacists. Preliminary results were presented during the 1st Fair of Pharmaceutical Science organised by EUFEPS, which was held in June in Nice, France.

Education Committee: For the last couple of years, the committee has been working on improving the format of ESCP congresses, in order to adapt it to the increasing number of participants and to the wishes and expectations of the scientific community. In addition, the committee is also looking into providing continuing education credit points for attending ESCP conferences and symposia to more European countries, and is also exploring a project to set up an interactive system of education on the web.

Publication Committee: Over the last year, the Publication Committee reviewed and improved the abstract submission process, and both the Prague symposium and the Stockholm conference saw a steep increase in the number of abstracts submitted. It was also reported that the impact factor of PWS is rising, and was at 0.854 for 2004.

SIG Council: SIGs are the backbone of the Society; the conference workshops and the education course are organised under the SIGs' umbrella. In 2005, the SIG Geriatrics has been revitalised with the arrival of a new SIG leader from Canada: Louise Mallet.

These specific activities are taking place in the frame of the strategic

development of ESCP, as encouraged by the General Committee.

The RESP Chair announced the appointment of a new chair of the Publication Committee, succeeding Marie Caroline Husson: Foppe van Mil.

8. Discharge and appointment of GC and EC members

The President thanked the outgoing members of the General Committee, Jacqueline Grassin and Elisabeth Grimm Baettig, and welcomed new members to the General committee: Marie-Caroline Husson, representing France, and Johnny Beney, representing Switzerland.

Erik Gerbrands was also introduced as the new ESCP Treasurer.

9. Future Congresses

The Vice President Gert Laekeman presented the upcoming ESCP Conferences and Symposia.

The 6th Spring Conference of 2006 will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania and will focus on "Chronic Disease Management: The Role of the Pharmacist". The Conference will comprise the support not only of Lithuania, but also Estonia, Latvia and other countries in close proximity, that will make it a truly Baltic meeting.

The 35th ESCP Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy will be held in Vienna, Austria and the theme will be "The Role of Communication in Patient Safety and Pharmacotherapy Effectiveness".

As we look towards 2007, we will take ESCP Spring Conference to Scotland, to beautiful Edinburgh, and the Symposium will probably be held in Greece. The spring conference in 2008 should be held in Belgium, and the fall symposium in Italy. Then, in 2009 a joint meeting with ACCP will be taking place in the US.

10. Date and venue for the next General Assembly meeting

The President announces that the 28th General Assembly will take place in Vienna, Austria, on Friday, 20th October 2006 at the Austria Centre Vienna.

ESCP General Committee Annual Report 2005 - 2006

The General Committee is pleased to announce the key developments and achievements within the Society since the last General Assembly in Amsterdam, October 2005.

The 2005-2006 has been a period of consolidation: the Society built on the experience cumulated in the antecedent years to move forward different projects. In its continuous efforts to promote clinical pharmacy, ESCP strived to look for collaborations with other organisations, following up on the work started during the presidency of Chiel Hekster and Jacqueline Grassin.

All RESP Committees have done a tremendous work trying to improve processes and contributing to ESCP's scientific health through strategic thinking, renewed involvement in the Conferences and Symposia scientific programmes.

The relationship with the association management company, which is administrating our International Office in Brussels, proved to be fruitful and led to the improvement and the optimisation of the daily administrative tasks, allowing our volunteers to dedicate more time to the Society and its scopes.

Research

Two ESCP research projects, managed by members of the Research Committee on antimycotics "Severe Fungal Infections Management and Patients' Outcome" and on cox-2 inhibitors "Eurocox" are now finalised and the results are being presented in the upcoming Symposium in Vienna as Pharmacotherapy Updates on the three days.

Strategic partnerships

The GC recognised the need to communicate with related organisations to look for partners and build strategic alliances, with the aim to

support clinical pharmacy as a specialisation in European faculties, accommodating clinical pharmacy in training programmes of pharmaceutical care by community pharmacies, and offering our training programmes for postgraduates and continuous education to different pharmaceutical chambers and associations. Partnerships and connections have successfully been continued or started with EPSA, ACCP, EUFEPS, ASHP, PGEU, EAHP and other prominent international organisations.

The discussions with the leaders of these associations will continue in the coming months and years, as some concrete projects are currently under development: the development of standards for clinical pharmacy services in the hospital setting in collaboration with EAHP; the improvement of pharmaceutical care in community pharmacies with PGEU; the organisation of the next joint Congress in 2009 with ACCP, and many more.

ESCP also chose to continue supporting EPSA students, as we believe it is important to raise awareness about the importance of clinical pharmacy within the young pharmacy community.

Education and meetings

Both the Symposium in Amsterdam and the Spring Conference in Vilnius were successful from many points of view: the scientific programme and the overall setting resulted to be highly appreciated by attendees. The number and the variety of participants in Vilnius exceeded our expectations: more than 600 delegates gathered in Lithuania's capital from 35 different countries, ranging from the Baltic States to Australia, Canada, Israel... making this conference a moment of real international exchange.

It however needs to be mentioned that although these 2 meetings were indeed highly successful from a scientific, educational and networking point of view, the net revenue they generated for the Society was quite limited.

We are now working on the preparation of the Spring Conference 2007, to be held in Edinburgh, UK, and striving to put in place an inspiring programme for the next European Symposium, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in the fall of 2007.

In addition to our yearly meetings, this summer we organised an Educational Course on Patient-Centred Teaching in Malta. The enthusiasm expressed by the participants is encouraging and we are looking forward to organising more ESCP Educational Courses all over Europe.

Some of our members took part, as invited speakers, in different meetings in the Middle East, such as the DUPHAT Congress in Dubai and the International Pharmaceutical Congress in Kuwait, exporting our "know-how" to other countries. As a result we saw more colleagues from these regions participating in our meetings and training programmes.

Membership

Our membership figures continue to be stable as to last year in the same period. Our members come from 57 different countries across the world, the majority being located in Europe, and have diverse backgrounds (hospital pharmacy, community pharmacy, universities, research centres...). This being said, our records show that the vast majority of the members seems however to be working in the hospital setting.

We believe that the focus on clinical pharmacy, which represents the uniqueness of and characterises the choices of our Society, is a key factor that will attract new individuals and help our membership progress.

The renewed affiliation to Pharmacy World & Science (PWS) led to the



ESCP Course in Patient-Centred Teaching

ESCP Course in Patient-Centred Teaching: Focus on the Patient with Rheumatoid Arthritis.

The course, held in collaboration with the University of Malta and University of Strathclyde, UK from 19 to 21 July in Malta, intended to demonstrate the practice and teaching of patient-based skills in clinical pharmacy in the context of the delivery of pharmaceutical care to patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). The care of patients with rheumatoid arthritis was used to illustrate a structured approach to identifying and resolving drug therapy problems in the clinic or community pharmacy. The pharmacists approach to the patient was also developed as an approach to teaching. Pharmaceutical care plans and quality of life questionnaires were used as clinical, teaching and research tools in the patient interview.

The course used practical work led by pharmacists experienced in pharmaceutical care and with rheumatoid arthritis patients in 'real-world' clinical settings.

Tutors and setting

The course drew on patients in the rheumatology clinic and on the wards of St Luke's General Hospital, G'Mangia in Malta with the participation of a local team of practice tutors and physicians (led by Professor Carmel Mallia and the nurse practitioner Doris Aquilina). Pharmacy tutors were Carole Callaghan and Lorraine Perry from Edinburgh and Glasgow, who are experienced clinical pharmacists in rheumatology. Marise Gauci, a leading clinical pharmacy teacher practitioner in Malta provided clinical supervision. Louise Azzopardi, the clinical pharmacist member of the Rheumatology Clinical Team in Malta contributed a presentation on her research using Quality of Life measures. Professor Sam Salek (Cardiff University) is a pharmacist health economist who contributed a presentation on Quality of Life measures. Professor Steve Hudson (Professor of Pharmaceutical Care,

University of Strathclyde) was the co-ordinator of the three day programme.

Participants and objectives

The fifteen participants in the course were from Greece, Slovenia, Belgium, Estonia and Malta, and mainly had hospital pharmacy or a university setting background.

The course aimed to provide them with 'real world' experience of a structured approach to developing a pharmaceutical care plan using a focus on assessment of clinical outcomes and care issues in rheumatoid arthritis patients.

By following this course they could develop skills in preparation of clinical documentation of drug therapy problems, in conducting patient interviews and in using patients as a teaching resource. According to their previous clinical experience they were assigned to role play 'tutors' or 'learners'.

Conclusion

The course was successful in meeting its objectives. Highlights of the course were: the tremendous enthusiasm of the participants; the demonstration of multidisciplinary working by pharmacists with nurse practitioners and rheumatologists; the use of systematic approaches to producing care plans, assessing patients using quality of life instruments and the structuring of teaching plans; the quality of contact with patients for interviews which lasted at least one hour. This was possible by inviting patients in especially for the course session. The course was based on practical work and gave high quality clinical experience which was useful for general clinical skills development as well as skills specific to RA.

Through the organisation of courses in patient-centred teaching, ESCP provides an opportunity to help to develop teacher-practitioners and practitioner-researchers in clinical pharmacy. The focus on a particular disease was well received by the

participants although none were rheumatology specialists. The participants found the focus on a specific disease helped them apply general skills to a targeted group of patients. ●

Participants' report

Vesna Bizjak (Slovenia)

As the role of clinical pharmacy is becoming of great significance, classes and courses which extend our knowledge in that direction are even more welcome than ever.

The course in patient centred teaching, organised by ESCP, was very interesting and important for pharmacists who have the role to guide students, for pharmacists on how to approach the patient and present a case. However, in some hospitals the role of clinical pharmacists is still not established either because of lack of pharmacists or because the doctors are not aware of the importance of clinical pharmacists on wards. In future I would like to have other opportunities to attend courses, based on numerous practical clinical cases, co-operation with ward medical doctors and their interpretation of specific cases.

Louise Azzopardi (Malta)

It was very interesting to participate in the ESCP course on patient-centred teaching. When about a year ago Professor Hudson suggested to run the course focusing on rheumatoid arthritis which is my speciality, I was overwhelmed with interest and excitement. I had high hopes and expectations that the course could bring together enthusiastic health care professionals and patients working together as a team. I am very pleased that the course met my expectations and it was indeed an experience to participate in the ESCP course team and to share experiences with pharmacists from different countries.

1. Professor John Rizzo Naudi, Chancellor University of Malta, welcoming the course participants
2. Professor Carmel Mallia delivering an introductory lecture on Rheumatoid Arthritis
3. Participants working and discussing patient case notes in preparation for patient interview
4. Course tutors and participants
5. Irina Tegelj from Slovenia receiving the Course Certificate from Professor Godfrey LaFerla, Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Malta

A Look Back Upon 2 Years of Presidency

Jiri Vleck, ESCP President, reviews his presidency period.

My presidency will come to an end this coming October. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and friends, and to look back upon my involvement in the Society in the past and during the presidency period.

Before being elected as ESCP President in 2004, I assumed a number of positions within the Society, firstly as a member of the REC (Research and Education Committee) from 1994 to 1998. Afterwards I was elected into the General Committee (GC) representing the so called "smaller countries", countries with low membership. I also participated in the management of various ESCP and non-ESCP international congresses. My involvement in the Society's activities allowed me to recognise the importance of international meetings in the development of the profession. Continuous trainings, knowledge and skills sharing, support of research activities and presentation of particular papers, all this is necessary for the development of pharmacy worldwide. I recognised that ESCP, as the only Society which really focuses on clinical pharmacy in Europe, is

strong and flexible enough to play a key role in the development of modern pharmaceutical care.

A creative team

It was a nice experience to manage the incredibly creative team of the GC for the past two years. I appreciated that each member of the GC strived to improve ESCP activities. Colleagues like Gert Laekeman, Johnny Beney, Frank Jørgensen, Pat Murray, Francesca Venturini, Mara Guerreiro, Erik Gerbrands, Hannelore Kreckel, Marie Caroline Husson and Maria Skouroliakou brought a lot of different ideas. If national members do continue selecting representatives like these ones, I am not worried about the future development of ESCP.

It was not always easy to reach a consensus, but we did our best. One of my priorities has been to generate brainstorming sessions with the GC, to discuss and find new ideas on how to advance clinical pharmacy.

I would like to thank all the GC members including Luis Maria Mendarte for trying to overcome their own language barriers, and to get over cultural differences.

GC composition

The GC represented academicians, community and hospital pharmacists but no industrial pharmacists and pharmacist from regulator affairs. We may want to think about how to insure the GC represent all sectors of activity. We indeed ideally need to look for an optimal composition of the group, to facilitate advances in research projects, training courses and to increase the political and social awareness of clinical pharmacy. In many countries, the specialisation in clinical pharmacy does not allow to be officially responsible for the pharmacovigilance agenda on a state level, for the interpretation of TDM, etc. Everywhere medical faculty graduators only are employed, though pharmacists with clinical pharmacy specialisation should be equal to medical graduates, having in addition a deeper knowledge of drugs.

I wish the incoming President Gert Laekeman, all the GC and RESP well for the future. I am confident that they will be able to use ESCP to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and skills and to promote our professions through our successful congresses and training programmes.

Jiri Vleck

ESCP President, 2004 - 2006

➤ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

enlargement of the range of benefit for our members who now have full access to the PWS online archive on the ESCP web site www.escpweb.org.

What's next?

In an intention to facilitate the promotion of European research and the exchange of information between pharmacists from different geographic and professional areas, an abstract search engine will be soon available on the ESCP website. The goal is to include all the abstracts that were presented at a recent ESCP Conference or Symposium into a library, which will be accessible to all ESCP members at www.escpweb.org.

As indicated above, a number of great education and networking

opportunities are currently under preparation: the Edinburgh Spring Conference, the Istanbul Fall Symposium, several Patient Centred Teaching Educational Courses and Master Classes.

Some longer terms projects are currently being discussed, such as an online continuing education programme and possible changes in the ESCP conference strategy.

The membership will of course be kept well informed on these possible developments and changes.

In regards with the ESCP Leadership, some important changes will be taking effect at the Vienna Symposium, with Gert Laekeman (Belgium) taking over the presidency

for 2 years. Gert will be succeeded by Frank Jørgensen (Norway) in the Vice President role.

We wish them well in their new responsibilities!

The RESP landscape will also undergo some changes with a number of new members integrating the different Committees (SIG Council, Research, Education and Publication Committees) and bringing new expertise and ideas into our scientific discussions.

Jiri Vleck

ESCP President, 2004 - 2006

Jeroen van Liempd
ESCP Executive Director

Utrecht Pharmacy Practice Award to Chiel Hekster

ESCP Past-President Chiel Hekster, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, received on 21 June the Utrecht Pharmacy Practice Award 2006 for the excellence in practice, education and research. Over the years, Chiel Hekster has been a constant driver of innovative developments in pharmacy

practice in the Netherlands, and beyond. He has been a role model for many of us. During the Award Ceremony in Utrecht Hekster gave an excellent and visionary address on the current status and future of Clinical Pharmacy. A truly leader in field!



Chiel Hekster (right) at the Awards ceremony

Bert Leufkens
The Netherlands

For Your Diary

2006

20-22 September	Grenoble France	EFP - ESCP French Patient Centred Teaching Course
18-21 October	Vienna Austria	35 th European Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy The Role of Communication in Patient Safety and Pharmacotherapy Effectiveness
18 October	Vienna Austria	Masterclass in Search of Excellence Healthy Communication with Patients
18 October	Vienna Austria	8 th EPSA-ESCP Students' Symposium Patient Safety: a Task of the Pharmacy, a Step for the Student

2007

17-19 May	Edinburgh UK	7 th ESCP Spring Conference on Clinical Pharmacy Tackling Inequalities in the Delivery of Pharmaceutical Care
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Important Reminders

35th European Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy, Vienna, Austria

Late Registration

Saving up to € 100

Deadline: 6 October 2006

Further information is available at: www.escpweb.org



European Society of Clinical Pharmacy

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Co-ordinator: Lilian M. Azzopardi (Malta)

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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

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