Forging Partnerships for Clinical Pharmacy

Fresh from the success of ESCP’s 5th Spring Conference in Stockholm, Jiri Vlcek, ESCP President highlights some future partnership opportunities for the Society.

The 5th ESCP Spring meeting in Stockholm was a huge success. I would like to thank the Organising Committee chaired by Anders Carlsten, the Scientific Committee chaired by Tommy Eriksson and our International Office led by Bruce Roudebush for their work.

Growing numbers
ESCP meetings are becoming more and more popular. In 2004, ESCP hosted 2,400 participants during its two meetings, and it seems that 2005 will be another exceptional year. The 5th Spring meeting, the first conference for 2005, attracted some 750 participants. It was such a pleasure to meet so many young pharmacists during these three days, aware that they might well become strong supporters of clinical pharmacy in the near future. The presence of a number of delegates coming from far away countries was also to be noticed.

It is the second time in the last 15 years that we have opted for an academic setting to hold an ESCP meeting (the previous time was in 1993 in Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic – Education in Patient Oriented Pharmacy). The setting in Stockholm, the Aula Magna, was particularly symbolic because on the third day during the conference we organised a joint meeting with the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (EAFP).

Unfortunately, due to the great interest generated by the topics, some rooms were too small for the workshops. ESCP workshop leaders are very good at presenting contemporary issues; the over-subscription to the workshops was a healthy problem clearly showing that ESCP programmes are attracting a good, and growing, number of participants. We apologise to all for the inconvenience this issue may have caused and we are now already taking measures to avoid the problem in the future.

Bringing universities closer to practice
During the conference the main focus of the theme on education was related to teacher-practitioners (TPs). We absolutely need to support TPs, because they can join theory and practice and bring universities closer to practice. We discussed barriers around the level of universities and regarding the level of TPs. Professional organisations like pharmaceutical associations could solve budget problems if they are interested in future developments of pharmaceutical care. ESCP can support development of TPs by providing a platform for TPs on the Board of our Society to discuss how to improve bedside teaching and how to embark on professional development. ESCP can support this by organising workshops, as well as teaching courses.

“We need to keep in mind that without documentation we cannot follow the continuity in pharmaceutical care and convince the public and health care players of the need of the professional services provided by pharmacists.”
The news of the passing away of Dr. Joaquim Bonal on 1 May was a great sadness to ESCP and to all who knew him well. Joaquim Bonal was 71 years old but he had still remained as one of the major leaders of clinical pharmacy around the world over the last decades.

Joachim Bonal was the Director of the Department of Pharmacy in the Hospital de la Santa Creu i St Pau in Barcelona, Spain, from 1967 until his retirement in 1998. He established a hospital Drug Information Centre, Drug and Therapeutics Committee and a Drug Formulary. Moreover, he gave to the Department of Pharmacy a clinical orientation by setting up satellite pharmacies, promoting activities like total parenteral nutrition and clinical pharmacokinetics. He switched the pharmacist’s focus from a drug-oriented emphasis to a patient-centred one, enhancing both the pharmacist’s role and his/her relationship with the patient.

He was the President of the Spanish Society of Hospital Pharmacy, and also founded the Catalan Society of Clinical Pharmacy. From 1988 to 1990 he left his position of Director of the Department of Pharmacy in Barcelona, to take up the post of General Director of Pharmacy in the Ministry of Health of Spain. After his retirement from the hospital in 1998, he was still very active in promoting the clinical orientation of community pharmacy in Spain, and was the President of the Foundation of Pharmaceutical Care in Spain until his death.

Joaquim Bonal played a major role in establishing the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy and was one of the founding members in 1979. He served as President from 1982 to 1984 and always remained very active within ESCP, giving precious advice and showing young pharmacists the way. He was appreciated by each of us for his intelligence, commitment, and kindness. In 2003, we set up the Council of Past Presidents as an advocacy group inside ESCP and I remember how enthusiastic he was to keep working for ESCP through this way. Last year he prepared a very important document for pharmacists in Europe entitled ‘The role of the pharmacist inside the health care system.’ We will all be proud to continue his work.

Joaquim Bonal was also very active in the training of pharmacists and applied research. He authored more than 200 publications and was involved in more than 100 clinical pharmacy courses in Spain and both Central and South America.

Last year our American colleagues honoured him with the ACCP Paul F. Parker Medal for Distinguished Service to the Profession of Pharmacy, making him a European pharmacist to be distinguished in North America. He was an internationally recognised leader in the development of clinical pharmacy. Besides being an outstanding pharmacist and an exceptional leader, Joaquim Bonal was an extraordinary man who treasured his many friendships and displayed enthusiasm and passion throughout his life.

It has been a great chance and honour to meet Joaquim for all of us, and we will always be grateful to him.

His example and memory will remain with us for-ever. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family.

We will miss him.

Jacqueline Grassin
Immediate-Past President,
ESCP France

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In Memoriam: An Appreciation of Dr. Joaquim Bonal

Joaquim Bonal (far left) at the 1st ESCP European Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy in Lyon 1979, at the time ESCP was founded.

General Committee: Election of a New Member

In May, Maria Skouroliaikou from Greece was elected to the ESCP General Committee representing Austria, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom.

Read her profile and learn more about Maria in the next issue of ESCP News.
The recently established European Fellowship for Pharmacists (EFP) offered five Fellowships to five clinical pharmacists to attend the ESCP Spring Conference in Stockholm.

The European Fellowship for Pharmacists (EFP) is a ‘not-for-profit’ association established in 2004 to promote clinical pharmacy throughout Europe by helping clinical practitioners to attend the ESCP and other similar conferences. This will encourage regular, active participation in the different interest groups of ESCP and provide an additional forum for networking and exchange of information and ideas.

The EFP Board includes five active members of ESCP: Jean-Baptiste Rey (responsible for EFP communication), Angelo Paci (Treasurer), Vincent-Launay Vacher (Vice-president), Tony Nunn and Andre Rieutord (Presidents). Membership is available to all pharmacists and pharmaceutical companies who share the aims of EFP and wish to promote clinical pharmacy in Europe.

The ESCP conference in Stockholm was the first event in the life of EFP. Thanks to a number of sponsors, EFP was able to offer grants to five European fellows from Italy (Anna Carollo), Lithuania (Evaldas Bogusis), Sweden (Anna Finquist, Hanna Millbourn) and Turkey (Emel Mashaki). All had been selected by the EFP Board for their professionalism and demonstrated interest in furthering integration of clinical pharmacy into their practice.

Following an introductory breakfast meeting at the Rica City Hotel, the Fellows attended different plenary sessions and workshops and took up an interest in the poster and oral presentations. Each Fellow agreed to report back on sessions attended thus allowing more complete coverage of the conference than could be achieved by anyone alone. Two of the Fellows also attended the pre-conference course on Patient-centred Teaching.

EFP’s Fellows shared their experience and friendship together and all enjoyed their first ESCP conference. At a farewell dinner organised by Privilege Events, they resolved to come again and were looking forward to renewing their acquaintance and evaluating progress at forthcoming ESCP conferences.

Through the ESCP International Office, EFP had the opportunity during the Stockholm conference to present its association and goals to ESCP. Both organisations look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship.

EFP hopes to offer further Fellowships for attendance at the next ESCP Symposium in Amsterdam next October 2005. More information will be available via the EFP website (www.efp-online.org).

EFP is helping ESCP to promote clinical pharmacy in Europe!

SIG Cancer Care

During the ESCP Spring Conference 2005 held in Stockholm, the SIG Cancer Care Workshop run by Hannelore Kreckel from Germany used role playing sessions to present clinical pharmacy issues in cancer care.

As chair of the SIG Cancer Care, Angelo Paci, from France, briefly introduced the session and this innovative way to teach. Hannelore Kreckel then started the role playing session which highlighted collaboration and communication skills within a healthcare team, raising awareness of the problems in an oncology pharmacy healthcare setting.

After a short introduction Hannelore presented the organisation of the healthcare team around the patient and explained how communication is made easier, defining the three key issues: quality of information, quality of information transfer and meeting the patient needs.

Role playing - community practice

Attendants were briefly exposed to the first scenario to be played and were split into two groups to discuss and imagine the feelings and attitudes of a patient and a community.
pharmacist in a particular situation. After some time of discussion and exchange within each group, one volunteer from each group came to play the scenario. It was very interesting, very interactive and very convivial! Hannelore’s debriefing with the ‘actors’ and the ‘audience’ was surely the most important part. Thanks to her experience in moderating such sessions, Hannelore came out with very strong messages about communication between pharmacists and patients, and how to take patients’ feelings into consideration. Furthermore, in this particular scenario which presented a ‘not good’ physician, Hannelore insisted on the fact that it is crucial not to blame the physician in front of the patient but rather try to arrange things giving the picture of a tightly linked healthcare team dedicated to patients’ service.

**Role playing - hospital practice**

A second scenario was then organised to mimic a situation encountered in a hospital setting. This time four roles came into play: the patient, the nurse, the clinical pharmacist and the physician. It was easier this time to imagine us as a physician, a nurse, or a patient and, indeed, there was no volunteer at the beginning to play the pharmacist! Four volunteers including a great actor as the patient, (participants will surely remember her!) then acted the scenario. Again, Hannelore's debriefing was very precious, helping to break the codes of physical attitude: direction of the eyes, position of the arms. The body language was described and detailed with some advice to help participants be aware of those clues that may help manage a patient in an appropriate manner.

The scenarios proposed for this workshop are available for downloading from the ESCP website, in the SIG Cancer Care section. You may download them to prepare yourself for the next role playing session to be organised, probably, next year.

Hanna Millbourn, Julie Rouprêt, Vincent Launay-Vacher
The 5th ESCP Spring Conference was held in Stockholm from 25 to 28 May, around the theme of ‘Integrating Research, Education and Clinical Practice’. The conference was organised in collaboration with the Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Apoteket AB.

During the opening ceremony Jiri Vlcek, President of ESCP welcomed the over 750 delegates to the conference. Anders Carlsten, President of the Conference extended his welcome to Sweden on behalf of the Organising and Scientific Committees. A tribute to Joaquim Bonal was presented by Jacqueline Grassin, Immediate Past President and a minute of silence was observed in his memory.

The plenary session of the first day addressed the concept of ‘Applying Evidence-base to Pharmacy Practice’. Phil Wiffen, Director of Training and co-ordinating editor of the Cochrane Collaboration, United Kingdom presented evidence-based medicine and moved on to suggest evidence-based clinical pharmacy. He presented examples drawn from practice on how bias can undermine confidence in published results and examples on research studies that look at professional interventions. Vagn Handlos, Director of the Pharmacy at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen, Denmark presented the historical development of the hospital pharmacy. He then presented his experience in the introduction of clinical pharmacy in Danish hospitals.

Commenting on her attendance at one of the first day workshops Maria Göböova, a Clinical Pharmacist from the Teaching Hospital in Nitra, Slovakia said: “We provide information about pharmacotherapy especially about antimicrobial therapy. I am particularly interested in infectious diseases so I attended Workshop 1.3.: Infectious disease - Implementation of Guidelines for Sequential Antimicrobial Therapy. There was a lot of very important and beneficial information because sequential therapy, respecting strict criteria, can reduce hospital expenditures with good clinical outcomes. There I met young clinical pharmacists from Sweden, Austria, Spain, Great Britain.”

The theme of the second day was dedicated to ‘Documenting and Evaluating Clinical Pharmacy Practice’. Marco Oostervald from The Netherlands presented his experience from the community pharmacy setting. He particularly stressed the need for maintaining a patient-centred approach under all circumstances and ensuring that patients benefit from evidence-based knowledge. Sara Arenas-Lopez from the United Kingdom presented her experience in implementing a medicines management project in a paediatric hospital unit. The focus of the programme is to help patients to understand their medication during a hospital stay with the aim of highlighting problems before discharge and encouraging continued use of hospital medication once home. Following on from this Tommy Eriksson from Sweden stressed the importance for documentation to ensure the patient’s treatment history is transferred with him/her from one point of care to another. He explained the principles behind the Medication Report which has recently been developed in Sweden. This report, together with a medication list, describes all medication changes during a hospital stay.

Louise Mallet of the Pharmacy Faculty, University of Montreal, Quebec, Canada commented: “It is very encouraging to see that a few years ago pharmaceutical care was still a philosophy and that now pharmaceutical care is becoming part of the vocabulary. Coming from Canada, I observe that my European colleagues are documenting their interventions. We should do the same thing... The conference was a great way to meet colleagues and share experience from across the world.”
The third day chaired by Steve Hudson, Professor of Pharmaceutical Care at the University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom, addressed the issue of ‘The clinical pharmacist teacher-practitioner: who are they and what is their future?’ Experiences from different countries were presented by Ulrich Jaehde (Germany), Francoise Brion (France), Jennifer Silverthorne (United Kingdom), Teresa Bemejo (Spain), Branislava Milkovic (Serbia & Montenegro), and Margareta Hammarlund-Udenaes (Sweden).

Two workshops were then organised in collaboration with the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (EAFP) and the European Pharmacy Students’ Association (EPSA). EAFP was represented by Benito del Castillo Garcia, Spain, President of EAFP, Richard Suverkruip, Germany, General Secretary of EAFP, and Filiz Hincal, Turkey, Executive Committee member. The workshops addressed the issues on ‘How can the career structure and career pathway for the teacher-practitioner be developed in Europe?’ and ‘How can students be given more clinical experience in patient care?’.

During the conference over 300 abstracts were presented of which 18 were presented during oral communication sessions and 25 were presented during poster discussion forum sessions.

For the cultural evening, the delegates were hosted to the Vasa Museum where a guided tour of the world’s oldest warship, which sank on her maiden voyage in 1628, was provided. Participants could enjoy the Swedish atmosphere while networking with colleagues from all over Europe.

In anticipation of ESCP’s next meeting, members of the Organising Committee of the 34th ESCP Annual Symposium to be held between 26 and 29 October in Amsterdam, The Netherlands were enthusiastically distributing tulip mementos. See you there!
ESCP Educational Course on Patient Centred Teaching

As a pre-conference activity, ESCP organised a course in Patient Centred Teaching between 23 and 25 May. ESCP tutors, Moira Kinnear and Pat Murray (Scotland) and Andre Rieutord (France) were supported by local Swedish tutors, Per Nydert, Lisa Larsson and Ingehla Ryden in the delivery of this successful course which was attended by 16 enthusiastic participants.

The main focus of the course was to plan and deliver a bedside teaching session using real patients. The course was targeted for pharmacists with experience in clinical pharmacy practice and with an interest in teaching. The course’s key learning objectives were:

- Describe the advantages in the use of patients in clinical pharmacy teaching.
- Identify the opportunities in the clinical environment for problembased learning.
- Plan a bedside teaching session using the patient as a learning resource.
- Plan the use of patients in the participants’ own clinical teaching practice.
- Form future teachers to run this type of course on a regular basis during an ESCP conference.

Planning for teaching

The first day of the course used small group discussion to consider the skills required of pharmacists in their contribution to optimise pharmaceutical care for individual patients. A paperbased simulated case study was used as a basis for small group discussion of actual and potential drug related problems. Patient profiles and pharmaceutical care plans were used in this exercise. The concept of ‘preparing to teach’ was then introduced through discussion about learning objectives and teaching plans. In small groups the participants then attempted to write some learning objectives related to the case study. The day finished with discussion around when to use real patients in teaching, patient confidentiality, ethical and practical issues in the local hospital and a tour of the pharmacy.

Practical experience

The concept of the ‘student ward’ was introduced and expanded upon during the presentations, reflection concerning patients and the best aims. It also taught us a lot of patients and the best way to interview them properly and the need to use real patients in our teaching sessions. (Pat did a great job when she played the role of a patient and made us do that too, therefore we were able to put ourselves in the patients’ shoes which was really impressive). I enjoyed it a lot, learned so many things and am now counting the days for the next one that might be in Amsterdam in October." Emel Mashaki, Turkey

Taking part in the Patient Centred Teaching Course was a very nice experience for me. Not only did it help me to improve my teaching skills, it was also a good opportunity to meet clinical pharmacists from other countries and exchange experiences from practice. The methods we used during the teaching sessions gave me many new ideas which I will try to implement in the teaching of students on the wards at my university in Sweden. The role play sessions enabled us to understand the role both as a teacher as well as a student which was very good in order to improve our teaching skills. The course also made me reflect over my role as a teacher and showed the importance of having a teaching plan and clear objectives.

It was very well organised and our tutors were themselves really good role models when it comes to methodology and teaching. Thank you! I can truly recommend others to take part in the course in the future." Anna Finquist, Sweden

“I really enjoyed the course in Stockholm! The course gave me more knowledge in communication with patients and especially how to supervise students communicating with patients. As the setting was with ‘real’ patients in the wards in a hospital I think it will be easier to apply the knowledge in my job as a clinical pharmacist. I recommend the course!” Malin Davidsson, Sweden

“I think that it was very beneficial and well organized in terms of explaining how to establish a teaching plan, to guide students in the teaching sessions and make them focus on the main objectives and aims. It also taught us a lot concerning patients and the best way to interview them properly and the need to use real patients in our teaching sessions. (Pat did a great job when she played the role of a patient and made us do that too, therefore we were able to put ourselves in the patients’ shoes which was really impressive). I enjoyed it a lot, learned so many things and am now counting the days for the next one that might be in Amsterdam in October.” Emel Mashaki, Turkey
Several weeks ago, Bruce Roudebush informed the General Committee that he would be stepping down after 3 years of service as the Executive Director of ESCP. During the recent meeting of the General Committee in Stockholm, his replacement, Jeroen van Liempd, was formally introduced to the full GC.

Mr. van Liempd, a native of the Netherlands, has an extensive background and experience both in European Institutions/government and the world of association management. With Masters degrees in both Economics and Agricultural Management attained in the UK and in the Netherlands, he has 14 years professional experience built around International Affairs. He has served as National Expert at DG Agriculture for the European Commission and most recently, for the last five years, as the Secretary General of the FVBO (Belgian Seed Crushers and Oil Processors Association). He has extensive experience in the management of general assemblies, executive boards, working groups and committees as well as all strategic and budgetary operations for not-for-profit organisations.

His comprehensive background in working for associations provides the perfect foundation for his new position as Executive Director of ESCP. We wish him much success in his new role.

Jeroen van Liempd from the Netherlands has been named as the new Executive Director of ESCP.

For Your Diary ESCP Conferences and Courses

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<td>26 October</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>Masterclass in Search of Excellence Individualisation of Cancer Treatment: Clinical and Genetic Approaches</td>
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<td>Vilnius</td>
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<td>18-21 October</td>
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Further information is available at: www.escpweb.org