Clinical Pharmacy in France: a Dynamic Scenario

Marie-Claude Saux, President of the French Society of Clinical Pharmacy presents some of the activities undertaken by French clinical pharmacists.

Since May 2006, in France, pharmacy has been integrated officially as forming part of medical teaching centres and therefore the year 2007 should bring with it some changes for French clinical pharmacy.

Clinical pharmacy recognition
The activities of hospital pharmacists, especially clinical pharmacists, are services provided by pharmacists which focus on patient care.

Twenty-three years have passed since the inclusion of clinical pharmacy in the curricula of pharmacy studies in France and the development of hospital residency teaching year programmes for all French pharmacy students. Today pharmacy interventions and clinical pharmacy activities are recognised for their contribution towards safe and improved therapeutics.

A variety of activities
In France the activities of a clinical pharmacist include: general activities such as drug information, drafting of recommendations and protocols; clinical research and observational studies either drug related as a whole or focused on patient populations; patient-targeted activities on one or a number of patients and within this framework: drug regimen history, pharmaceutical review of prescriptions, management of undesirable events, or side-effects, patient counselling, patient education.

Pharmaceutical interventions
These general or patient-targeted activities result in pharmaceutical interventions (PI). The SFPC (French Society of Clinical Pharmacy) has set up a working group in charge of collecting, standardising, evaluating and developing PIs.

The group produced a tool to collect data available on the SFPC website. The tool standardises the classification of PIs which is required before carrying out the impact of the PIs on costs in a hospital environment.

Drug related errors analysis
Clinical pharmacokinetics, therapeutic drug monitoring, patient education, individualised counselling about treatment are also clinical pharmacy activities. Analysis of drug related errors which often occur due to failures in structure, organisation or operation is the objective of a working group set up under the aegis of SFPC. This group already produced a dictionary of terms which was disseminated earlier this year and is available from the SFPC secretariat.

Finally I am pleased to announce the publication of a work carried out on the measurement of indicators in hospital pharmacy related to patient care. This book was distributed during the 11th Meeting of the SFPC held in Bordeaux, France last February.

Clinical pharmacy in France is rich and SFPC is dynamic in ensuring that clinical pharmacy will take the essential standing at university level as well as in the practical setting in hospital or community pharmacies.

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Marie-Claude Saux
France
Meeting Pharmacists from Slovakia and Bulgaria

SCP News met with two pharmacists who benefited from ESCP’s financial support to attend the 35th European Symposium, held last October in Vienna.

Anna Olearova (Slovakia)

Anna is currently finishing her PhD studies on evidence-based pharmacy utilisation of cardiovascular drugs. She is attached at the Department of Organisation and Management in Pharmacy at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Comenius University, Slovakia. She decided to attend the symposium because she found the theme very relevant to her work.

Anna is responsible for teaching communication skills to undergraduate pharmacy students in the first semester of the fourth year of studies. It is the third year that she has been teaching this module and therefore she says that she is still developing the most useful programme. At the Comenius University around 250 students finish their pharmacy studies every year. A number of graduates leave Slovakia. Recently a new public pharmacy school has opened up in Slovakia, a country that has a population of around 5 million.

During the symposium, Anna presented a poster on “Healthy lifestyle counselling in community pharmacies”. The poster was co-authored by Magdalena Jurcikova. The study aimed to evaluate the knowledge of community pharmacists practising in 37 community pharmacies in Bratislava and Presov on healthy lifestyles and their interventions in educating patients. The knowledge of patrons visiting these pharmacies was also assessed. The study showed that patrons are aware of healthy lifestyle principles but are not willing to adopt related measures. They are not interested in receiving advice about healthy lifestyles from community pharmacists. On the other hand the community pharmacists have the knowledge, are interested in providing advice on healthy lifestyles, and are willing to participate in education programmes in this area. This study indicates that projects supporting the provision of information on healthy lifestyles by community pharmacists are essential. Studies directed towards diabetic patients are now being planned.

Ilko Getov (Bulgaria)

Ilko is an associate professor in pharmacovigilance and pharmacoepidemiology at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University of Sofia, Bulgaria.

In Bulgaria, a country with a population of around 8 million, which is applying to join the European Community, there are a number of discussions on the implementation and development of clinical pharmacy, pharmaceutical care and e-health. Since 1985 the faculty of pharmacy has been looking into the teaching of clinical pharmacy and now offers a post-graduate specialisation in clinical pharmacy. To date more than 30 pharmacists have obtained this certificate. Clinical pharmacy is also one of the specialisation areas in the undergraduate curriculum. However the practical implementation of clinical pharmacy in hospitals is still very difficult. It is being proposed that clinical pharmacy services are developed in the university hospital.

The faculty of pharmacy at the Medical University of Sofia is the only pharmacy school in Bulgaria and about 100 students graduate in pharmacy each year. The school hosts a number of foreign students from Macedonia, Turkey and Greece. After finishing their undergraduate pharmacy studies, pharmacists practise mostly in community pharmacies. With the application of Bulgaria to join the EU more graduates are being recruited in the areas of regulatory affairs and medical detailing compared to previous years. The pharmaceutical industry is also expanding with Actavis, a generic pharmaceutical company also setting up in Bulgaria.

Ilko presented a poster on “Current problems of clinical pharmacy practice in Bulgaria”. The study was co-authored by Valentina B. Petkova and Zlatka D. Dimitrova. The study evaluated clinical pharmacy practice in 32 hospitals in different parts of Bulgaria. Main problems with regards to the development of clinical pharmacy practice in Bulgaria are lack of computerisation, need to overcome communication barrier with physicians and the current attachment of the pharmacist to the hospital pharmacy within the hospital structure.

Ilko is aware of the value of learning from the experiences of others in order to achieve implementation of clinical pharmacy practice: he found participation in the ESCP symposium very useful since he met with colleagues from other countries who were sharing their experiences.

Best of luck to Anna in her studies and to Ilko in his endeavour to participate in developments in pharmacy in Bulgaria.
Who’s Who

Martin Schulz (Switzerland)

ESCP News met Martin Schulz, the new representative for Germany on the ESCP General Committee.

Martin is an adjunct professor at the Department of Pharmacology of Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, where he teaches clinical pharmacy. In his main job, Martin is Head of the Centre for Drug Information and Pharmacy Practice (ZAPP) of the Federal Union of German Associations of Pharmacists (ABDA). In addition, he is Director of the German Institute for Drug Use Evaluation.

Martin graduated as a pharmacist from the University of Hamburg in 1983. From 1983 to 1984 he was a hospital pharmacist. From 1984 to 1986 he studied Medicine at the University of Hamburg, and in 1988 he obtained his PhD in Pharmacology from the same university. In 1989, he was named Expert in Pharmacology DGPT by the German Society for Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology (DGPT). In 1993, he specialised as a Drug Information Pharmacist. Since 1992, he has been Vice-Director of the Commission on Drugs of German Pharmacists.

Martin has experience in the evaluation and implementation of the pharmaceutical support, promotion of effective and safe self-medication, pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacoconomics, drug information, drug supply and drug usage. His main areas of interest are outcomes research, quality and effectiveness of interventions, drug information and regulation, health/pharmacoconomics. He has more than 360 publications to his name and has also delivered a number of lectures and seminars. Martin is a member of various committees and commissions like BfArM, Bonn; Department of Health, Berlin; FIP (chairman of the Board of Pharmaceutical Practice Program Committee), and serves on various advisory/expert committees. He is a founding member of the Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe (PCNE) and has served as a chairman from 1999 to 2001. Since 1997 he has been a member of ESCP and since 1995 of ACCP. In addition, he serves on the editorial boards of Drugdex®, Annals of Pharmacotherapy and he reviews papers submitted to Pharmacy World Science, British Medical Journal, Thorax, Pharmacotherapy, British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology and Annals of Pharmacotherapy.

Disrupted Appearance of PWS

Pharmacy World & Science (PWS) is the official journal of ESCP, UKCPA and KNMP. Many members submit articles for publication in PWS, which has an impact factor of 1.007. Authors have noticed that the publishing process has not been as smooth as it should have: only one printed issue appeared in 2006, and accepted papers were not published online. Moreover, older papers were not properly followed up by the editors.

Two years ago Springer bought Kluwer - thus the journal - and outsourcing changes were forced upon the management of the journal, leading to the current problems. Since the acquisition Springer published 4 issues of PWS.

The responsible editor in Springer, Dr. Peter Butler, has recently promised ESCP that the journal will be back on track by the end of 2006. We all hope so, and on behalf of Springer, we do apologise to all the ESCP members and submitting authors.

We would like to remind you that as a member of ESCP you can access the electronic version of the journal and its archives via the ESCP website at www.escpweb.org, after login.

Foppe van Mil
PWS Editor-in-Chief
The Netherlands
The 35th ESCP European Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy that took place last October gathered some 800 clinical pharmacists from 52 different countries.

Pre-symposium activities
The Masterclass this year focused on “Healthy Communication with Patients” while the 7th EPSA-ESCP Students’ Symposium addressed “Patient Safety: a Task of the Pharmacist, a Step for the Student”. The evening plenary lecture preceding the welcome reception was presented by Jenny Simanowitz and it was quite a differently communicated lecture for delegates...

Scientific programme
The morning plenary sessions looked at 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. Afternoon plenary sessions were organised by the SIG Paediatrics and SIG Cancer Care. The pharmacotherapy updates presented very concise and practical information on Coxibs and on the use of systemic antifungal agents. The results of the two ESCP supported research projects on Coxibs and use of systemic antifungal agents were presented during the last pharmacotherapy update session.

Workshops were held on informing patients, cost effectiveness of innovative products, patient education in cancer chemotherapy, compliance and concordance, mental health, patient safety and patient education. SIG’s organised workshops in the areas of medicine information, pharmacokinetics, and nutritional support.

During the symposium, 25 papers from 12 different countries were presented as oral communications while 31 papers from 10 countries were presented during poster discussion forums.

General assembly
During the General Assembly Gert Laekeman (Belgium) took over the presidency of ESCP and Frank Jørgensen (Norway) took over as Vice-President. The newly elected president thanked Jiri Vlcek (Czech Republic) for all his work and commitment during his term of office as ESCP President.

Erik Gerbrands (The Netherlands) presented the financial results for 2005 and discussed the budget for 2007. Francesca Venturini (Italy) presented the work done by the Research, Education, Publications and SIG Council (RESP). She also announced new members of the RESP: Marcel Bouvy (The Netherlands) as chair of...
the Research Committee, Anna Carollo (Italy) and Fikret Vehbi Izzettin (Turkey) as members of the Education Committee, and Marie-Catherine Desroches (France) as a new member of the Research Committee. The SIG Council also welcomed 3 new Leaders: Anne Gilchrist (UK) for Integrated Primary Care, Yolande Hanssens (Qatar) for Medicine Information, and Mikael Daouphars (France) for Cancer Care.

Social programme
The welcome reception was held at the Vienna City Hall (Rathaus), a neo-gothic building where participants could enjoy a Viennese welcome! For the cultural evening participants visited the Haus der Musik which is a museum relating different periods of music in Vienna. A number of exhibits include interactive sessions so that participants could experiment and experience music. A traditional Heuriger evening was held as a symposium dinner.

Conclusion
During the closing ceremony, Elfriede Dolinar, Symposium President, thanked Elisabeth Kretschmer, Scientific Committee Chair, all members of the committee and participants for making the symposium a success.

Erik Gerbrands announced that the Health Base Poster Award was presented to Agnieska Skowron (Poland) for the paper on “The impact of pharmaceutical care for patients with hypertension on patients’ knowledge”.

ESCP President Gert Laekeman thanked Elfriede Dolinar for her contribution towards the success of this meeting.

As the Viennese say, Auf Wiedersen. The 2007 Spring Conference on “Tackling Inequalities in the Delivery of Pharmaceutical Care” will be held in Edinburgh, UK, 16-19 May. Abstract submission and registration for this event are now open at www.escpweb.org/edinburgh.

The 36th European Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy on “Implementing Clinical Pharmacy in Community and Hospital Settings: Sharing the Experience” will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, 25-27 October.

To learn more about this event visit www.escpweb.org/istanbul as of mid December.

ESCP gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors and exhibitors and wishes to thank them for their contributions to a successful meeting.

Lilian M. Azzopardi
Malta

Past and Present GC members: Martin Schulz (Germany), Frank Jørgensen (Norway), Johnny Beney (Switzerland) and in front row Georges Zeiger (Switzerland), a past president of ESCP

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Anna Carollo (Italy) who has been elected to the ESCP Education Committee

A participant directing the Philarmonic Orchestra at the Haus der Musik during the cultural evening!

Participants had the opportunity to admire the Rathaus...

enjoy the music...

and network during the welcome reception

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Research Studies in Vienna

Presenting research studies as oral communications at ESCP’s meetings is a good opportunity for pharmacists to discuss their findings with peers. ESCP News presents a selection of the variety of studies illustrated at the last ESCP Symposium.

Adherence to an initiative to promote the prescribing of preferred drugs and perceptions of health care specialists

Alexandra Pointinger (Austria)
The study assessed adherence to an initiative aimed at improving conformance to drugs which are advocated as preferred choice in a local formulary. It showed that the initiative was successful and highlighted the need to improve communication with the primary care health professionals. Service developments including therapeutic switching by pharmacists may be considered.

Drug information service implementation in primary health care centres: its impact on enquiry activity of a hospital pharmacy department

David Conde Estevez (Spain)
In 2000, the primary health care centres in Barcelona, Spain established drug information centres. Before they used the service provided from the hospital. After 2000, there was a decline in enquiries presented to the hospital drug information centre because of the decreased enquiries from primary health care pharmacists.

Physician knowledge of hypertension guidelines and blood pressure control

Barry Carter (USA)
The study aimed to evaluate the relationship between physician knowledge of the USA 7th Joint National Committee Guidelines on Hypertension and control of hypertension. A physician knowledge survey was developed and disseminated amongst physicians. Patients suffering from hypertension attending the clinics of physicians participating in the study were identified and blood pressure control rates were calculated. It resulted that the higher physician knowledge, the lower the blood pressure control rates. The study shows that educational strategies towards prescribers are not sufficient on their own to ensure blood pressure control because physicians may not be compliant with the guidelines and physicians who are more versed with the guidelines may have negative communication skills with patients.

Communication with nonadherent patients: a training at Utrecht University

Majanne Wolters (The Netherlands)
Non-adherence to medications is not only due to lack of information but may be due to lack of patient support in problem solving. At the University of Utrecht, a training programme, including simulated sessions followed by discussion, was presented to undergraduate pharmacy students. Students were assessed and 10-25% of them failed the test at their first attempt.

Development of a tool to assess communication skills in pharmacy students

Veerle Foulon (Belgium)
The study aimed to design and evaluate a tool to assess communication skills at various stages in the undergraduate pharmacy programme curriculum. When the tool was applied to students, it was possible to identify differences in communication skills across the different learning levels. The tool would be useful when combined with other assessment measures intended to evaluate development of communication skills by students.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
Consultation skills training: a model for pharmacy practice

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Cybele: an Aid in Clinical Pharmacy Practice

Gert Laekeman introduces Cybele, a medical and pharmacy practice supportive database.

Medication is prescribed during pregnancy in 86% of expectant mothers and during labour in 79% of the patients (WHO, 1991). Pharmacists who want to give advice need easy access to sources of information. Cybele is a database that has been launched in Belgium as a supportive tool in medical and pharmacy practice. The database contains most of the DCI drug names commercialised in Europe.

Starting from the title page the user gets:
- a search instrument on chemical name
- a lexicon related to pregnancy and lactation
- an index of the system

By clicking on a drug substance the corresponding monograph is opened. The monograph contains:
- an overview table of the substance requested
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Cybele is currently available in French and Dutch.

The purpose is to look for partnerships in order to compare it with possible existing databases in other countries, translate the database in English and to other European languages, and to update it with information from international sources. An ad hoc working party can be developed.

Gert Laekeman
Belgium

The programme is now available for consultation on the ESCP website during three months. Suggestions, willingness to co-operate and correspondence can be sent to: info@escpweb.org

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For Your Diary

2007

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Important Reminders

7th Spring Conference on Clinical Pharmacy, Edinburgh, UK

Abstract Submission | 30 January 2007
Early Registration | 30 March 2007

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES WORLD CONGRESS
3rd World Congress of the Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences of FIP (PSWC2007)

Optimising Drug Therapy: An Imperative for World Health

Organisation and Exhibition:
International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)
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- Academy of Pharmaceutical Science and Technology, Japan (APSTJ)
- Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association (APSA)
- Controlled Release Society (CRS)
- Pharmaceutical Society of Japan (PSJ)
Supporting organisations
- International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics
- International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research
- European Society of Clinical Pharmacy

CORE TOPICS:
- Functional Genomics and Proteomics
- Pharmacology
- Medicinal Chemistry, Natural Product Research
- Drug Metabolism and Transport
- Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics
- Drug Delivery and Pharmaceutical Technology
- Pharmaceutical Analysis and Quality Control
- Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmaco-epidemiology
- Regulatory Affairs

PRE-SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM
Pre-satellite symposium for and by Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows
Date: 20 and 21 April 2007
Chair organising committee: Stefaan De Smidt (Belgium)
Information pre-satellite symposium: stefaan.desmidt@ugent.be

Information: congress@fip.org
Venue: RAI Congress Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Date: 22 - 25 April 2007

Abstract Submission Deadline: 15 December 2006