

EAHP News

Breaking all records with the 14th EAHP Congress

The 14th EAHP Congress held from 25 to 27 March 2009 drew a record 2,687 attendees, representing a 25% increase from 2008.

Hospital pharmacists, industry representatives, hospital managers and partners gathered in Barcelona, Spain, to discuss the latest trends in IT and Automation for the Hospital Pharmacist along with several other topics relevant to hospital pharmacy (see the congress report on pages 20-21). The congress took place at the Palacio de Congressos de Catalunya, where more than 60 exhibitors displayed the latest technology, medical devices and pharmaceuticals available to hospital pharmacists.



⇒ The EAHP Board outside the congress centre, from left to right: Associate Professor Juraj Sýkora, Dr Tajda Miharija-Gala, Mr Tony West, Mrs Jacqueline Surugue, Professor Vagn Handlos, Ms Elfriede Dolinar and Dr Roberto Frontini.

Drawing attendees to this event was a compelling mix of educational sessions, round table discussions, location of the event and the wonderful weather that goes with it, product demonstrations and industry-focused networking. In addition to 12 scientific seminars, repeated over two and half days of meetings, the 14th EAHP Congress also provided hospital pharmacists with exceptional networking opportunities as this is THE place where peers from all over Europe and the rest of the world can meet and exchange ideas. With more than 50 countries represented at the 14th EAHP Congress, EAHP can be proud to become more and more global, following the wishes of EAHP President, Mrs Jacqueline Surugue.

As Mrs Surugue informed the audience during the closing ceremony, the 14th EAHP Congress was the first one entirely run by EAHP staff. Although challenging at times, overwhelming very often and mostly exhausting, the success of the event made it enjoyably rewarding for all personnel who participated in it. The comments collected via the overall congress survey and the

evaluation form confirmed that the content of the scientific programme, the choice of speakers, the management of the exhibition and the overall running of the event met the attendees' expectations. Several exhibitors also said that this year was the most professionally operated EAHP congress they have ever attended.

The EAHP is looking forward to an even more successful congress, to celebrate the 15th anniversary of its inauguration, in Nice, France, from 24 to 26 March 2010.

Hospital and community pharmacists launch first white paper on interoperability

In March 2009 the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) consortium launched its first white paper on pharmacy.

The paper describes the main interoperability Use Cases, the related actors and sequence diagrams, and gives an overview of relevant standards to be used. EAHP has actively contributed to the preparation of this document and submitted it for consultation to its constituents. Readers of EJHP will find the first version of the paper at: <ftp://ftp.ihe.net/International/Europe/Development/Pharmacy/White%20Paper/IHE+Eur-Pharmacy-WhitePaper-PublicComment-1.0.pdf>

Useful comments collected by the end of March 2009 will be incorporated into the paper which will then be used as input for the development of the so-called IHE Pharmacy Integration Profile. Although rather a technical document, readers are highly encouraged to consult it, as interoperability of software used in a hospital is of primary importance to both patient safety and the practice of the profession of hospital pharmacist. This project and IHE Europe provide hospital pharmacists with means of communication with IT suppliers. The aim is to inform them of our needs, before they develop their own software, so that any new products developed will meet our requirements more closely.

EAHP reviewing the governance and structure of its educational events

In a move to rationalise resources and develop its educational activities in a coherent and easy-to-manage way, the EAHP is considering integrating the EAHP Foundation within the overall structure of the association. The Foundation seminar would henceforth benefit from the knowledge and expertise of the Congress Scientific Committee and volunteers would work together rather than split over sub-groups. Still to be approved by the EAHP General Assembly, meeting in June 2009 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, the change would also support EAHP's desire to be more transparent and clear about its operation.

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