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EAHP hosts an ESCP workshop at its annual congress in Nice, France, 24–26 March 2010

As announced in *EJHP Practice* 2009, Issue 5, EAHP is hosting a workshop developed by the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP) at its 15th Congress, to be held in Nice, France, 24–26 March 2010, titled 'Clinical Pharmacy for Hospital Pharmacists – Therapeutic Education in Cancer Care' this session will enable participants to review their ability to:

- educate patients and deliver information on how to improve safety and efficacy of oral anticancer prodrugs, trying to minimise side effects
- improve patient compliance and adherence to treatments
- perform drug reviews to identify potential drug-drug interactions
- support oncologists in facing new challenges.

This is the continuation of an ongoing agreement with ESCP which started in 2005 under which each association's President is invited to the other's annual congress. With this partnership, EAHP reinforces its relationship with the clinical pharmacists and shows it supports all aspects of hospital pharmacy practice. In October 2009 Dr Roberto Frontini, President of EAHP, attended an ESCP annual meeting in Geneva, Switzerland where he benefited from the high level of training and information provided by the society. No doubt members of ESCP will enjoy the EAHP congress equally!

EAHP President discusses education with European healthcare associations

In addition to further developing its cooperation with ESCP, Dr Roberto Frontini in the past two months has been meeting representatives of the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU), the European Pharmaceutical Student Association (EPSA), the European Industrial Pharmacists Group (EIPG), the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) and the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) to exchange views on the status of education for pharmacists and underline the need for a specialisation in hospital pharmacy. He explained the necessity of recognising this specialisation in order to allow hospital pharmacists to practice in EU countries other than their country of affiliation. He also promoted specialist pharmacists in the support of other healthcare professionals, in particular physicians, who more and more need to be able to delegate to skilled and trained personnel, outside of their own field of expertise. Accreditation of schools of pharmacy, continuing professional development and education were some of the items on the agenda and they will be discussed further within the Pharmine European project, see *Eur J Hosp Pharm Pract.* 2008(2):10.

EAHP also had the chance to discuss new developments, training and international cooperation while at the American

Society of Health-System Pharmacists' (ASHP's) mid-year meeting which was held in Las Vegas, USA, 6–10 December 2009. This year again the association's Board of Directors and the Education Manager took the opportunity of this event to position EAHP at the international level and make contacts to bring in more professionals to the EAHP 15th Congress, in particular through the exhibition, where EAHP had a booth.

EAHP contribution to enhancing European pharmacovigilance

In October 2009, the EAHP helped draft a position paper issued by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) commenting on the proposed new European Directive on pharmacovigilance. Representing EAHP, the EPHA, together with other healthcare associations, consider the latter insufficient to address the need for improved patient safety. The paper highlighted the contribution of pharmacists to pharmacovigilance (see www.eahp.eu/News/European-pharmacovigilance-needs-to-improve).

Among other things it calls for:

- more stringent requirements for market authorisation
- improved communication with the public and patients
- improved patient information leaflets
- a symbol to indicate new medicines under surveillance
- the encouragement of direct reporting of adverse drug reactions by patients and healthcare professionals
- improved Europe-wide collection of high-quality adverse event reports
- rigorous pre-authorisation studies in place of post-authorisation risk management systems
- more transparency
- further support for national and regional pharmacovigilance centres
- additional longer-term research on particular medicines
- further transfer of knowledge on pharmacovigilance between countries.

Conscious of the fact that reporting is time consuming and a constraint on healthcare professionals who have very limited human resources for this activity, EAHP through EPHA underlines the need to provide professionals with the appropriate technological tools to perform this duty. The EPHA will monitor closely the development of the draft Directive in the European Parliament and the European Council (heads of Member States).

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