

ACPE needs assessment of the 21st EAHP Congress

Hospital pharmacists taking the lead – partnership and technologies

Hospital pharmacists play a strategic role in the hospital setting: as a bridge between the clinical environment and the administration, their mission is to ensure safe and effective use of medicines through collaboration with all the involved parties. This task is facilitated by the use of current and emerging technologies.

The 21st EAHP congress addresses these topics in a variety of ways with the key theme, “Hospital pharmacists taking the lead – partnership and technologies”. This means collaborative work and extended knowledge and use of technology.

In the keynote lectures the speakers introduce to the topics of patient involvement in healthcare, the fast progression of technology in the hands of the patient, and the new development in pharmacotherapy, e.g. new frontiers in pharmacology.

The synergy satellites offer hospital pharmacists a combination of verified high quality educational sessions with the contribution of the pharmaceutical industry on specific topics including interchangeability of biologicals and ready to use drugs.

Pharmacy students and young professionals, pharmacists in their early careers will be able to explore the role of the hospital in pharmaceutical care. Pharmacy students will be able to attend a specific session on the development of pharmaceutical care, the different models that evolved in the years, and the role of the pharmacists in providing it through a systematic approach.

Seminars cover a wide range of topics which meet the needs of hospital pharmacists from across Europe and from across the world. Multidisciplinary healthcare professional teamwork and ensuring medication safety in the transitions of care are fundamental aspects that a hospital pharmacist has a crucial role. Clinical pathways are standardised, evidence-based multidisciplinary management plans, which identify an appropriate sequence of clinical interventions, timeframes, milestones and expected outcomes for a homogenous patient group. Seminar P3 will cover these aspects. The need of Patient involvement and the design of pharmacy services around patient’s needs will be covered in Seminar P1.

The optimal care of the patient is the hospital pharmacist’s first priority. Technology is a mean to reach this goal quicker and more efficiently. Several technologies and organizational models will be discussed and presented in the Seminar cluster “Technology”: e-health, e-learning, novel ways of dispensing drugs and patient empowerment. This last topic ranked first in the last “needs assessment survey” (e.g., therapeutic education of the patient). These seminars will allow the presentation and discussion of technology from different point of view, allowing participants to be exposed both to topics directly related to the hospital pharmacy and to issues involving directly the patient.

Pharmacotherapy and the way of developing new medicines are evolving: new modalities of care and therapeutic strategies are now available for the cure of diseases. New competencies are needed, for example, in the field of advanced therapeutic medicinal products. Seminar PH4 will address this issue. However, also in the traditional pharmacotherapy there are emerging issues to be known and applied: the scarcity of new antibiotics on the market and the need to wisely use the available ones in clinical practice will be addressed in Seminar PH3. In the last “needs assessment survey this topic emerged as the most requested under the umbrella of “clinical pharmacy services”.

Several Seminars are linked to “interactive sessions”, which further develop the topic of the seminar in a more participative way. Clinical pathways and new technologies are the ones.

The latest research conducted in practice from colleagues throughout Europe and the world can be seen at the poster exhibition with the top 12 selected for oral presentations. Topics range from paediatric dosing, pharmacokinetics of everolimus in transplantation, utilisation of technology such as computerised physician order entry, medication related problems, drug shortages.

The participants themselves describe the learning needs of the conference. This year it will be possible to complete the survey online during the event, via the official mobile application and following the congress itself. The Scientific Committee with the formation of the next education program for the 22nd EAHP Annual Congress in Cannes, France.

In the previous congress the participants clearly expressed a desire for educational programmes on the topics of “Clinical Pharmacy in the hospital setting”, “Introducing new technology in the hospital pharmacy”. The 21st EAHP congresses have sessions relating to these topics. Additionally speakers that received high evaluation marks have been included again and those receiving low marks were not invited again.

The abstracts and titles for the sessions have been revised in line with the mission and goals of the scientific committee. The previous needs assessments and a series of statements agreed by representatives of the EAHP membership have identified areas which educational programmes are required. The sessions at the congress have been designed to meet these needs, with the titles linking to the relevant section of the EAHP Statements.

In summary the continuing professional development of hospital pharmacist will be addressed through a combination of knowledge and application based activities such as seminars, interactive sessions and workshops on the underlying topic of collaborative care and technology.