Exclusive preview of the #EAHP2019 Synergy Satellite programme

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Biosimilar medicines and anticoagulants will again feature prominently on the Synergy Satellite agenda of the 24th Congress of the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP). From 27 March to 29 March 2019, the association is inviting hospital pharmacists from all over the globe to Barcelona, Spain for its annual conference. This year's theme is 'Personalised Hospital Pharmacy—meeting the needs of every patient'.

To help hospital pharmacists prepare for and provide cutting edge innovation in service delivery and patient care, EAHP has developed Synergy Satellites. Synergy Satellites are accredited high-level sessions developed and managed by the EAHP Scientific Committee and supported by industry educational grants. The Synergy programme is based on a needs assessment conducted by the scientific committee and attending participants may obtain continuing education points.

The use of biosimilar medicines is widespread in many countries. However, their uptake varies across Europe and even within different areas of the same country. The European Medicines Agency has developed a robust regulatory framework which ensures that a biosimilar can only receive a marketing authorisation once it is demonstrated to have no meaningful clinical difference from its originator. The lack of awareness of this requirement may make some clinicians reluctant to use what they see as inferior versions of the biologics. The Synergy Satellite Biosimilars: challenging misconceptions, optimising uptake, maximising value (financial support was provided by Pfizer Limited as a Medical and Educational Goods and Service) addresses this challenge. It aims at helping hospital pharmacists to understand the regulatory requirements for biosimilar approval in the EU and to formulate their own implementation strategy to increase the uptake of biosimilars in their country.

Hospital pharmacists play a key role in sound procurement of drugs. Being responsible for the definition of the specifications

in the tendering procedures they ensure the continuity of supply of cost-effective and quality medicines to patients. Biosimilars—available yet sometimes missing—the challenge of procurement (sponsored by an education grant from Amgen) will explore tendering and procurement problems, show examples, and discuss the way forward, so that the full potential of biosimilars as enablers of affordable innovation can be fulfilled, with maximum advantages for patients and healthcare providers. Participants will learn about issues related to the procurement of biosimilars, be enabled to recognise the risks of supply and to advise on the implementation of appropriate tendering processes for biosimilars.

Since the beginning of this century, rituximab has changed the treatment of haematological cancers, specially non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Patients live longer with a better quality of life, and with better survival rates, but the cost has been very high. Biosimilars in haemato-oncology—new blood, old questions (sponsored by an education grant from Sandoz) will address changes through recent availability of rituximab biosimilars. Hospital pharmacists will be provided with new understanding of the key facts which support biosimilar approval in the EU as applied to oncohaematology therapy. After participating in this Synergy Satellite they will be able to recognise biased trends of change in first-line therapy and to advise on the implementation of biosimilars of monoclonal antibodies used in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and other haematological diseases.

Oral anticoagulants have recently seen a large increase in uptake due to the development and subsequent marketing of non-vitamin K oral anticoagulants (novel oral anticoagulants). Hospital pharmacists should be educated as to the correct use and risks of anticoagulant drugs in the hospital setting and should increasingly be involved in using these compounds appropriately during and also after hospital stay. Anticoagulation—improving efficacy and preventing side effects (sponsored by an education grant from Bayer) will introduce congress participants to the basics of periprocedural management of anticoagulants. After attending this Synergy Satellite, hospital pharmacists should be able to participate actively in the development

and implementation of a periprocedural bridging protocol in the hospital.

In case the sneak preview of the 2019 Synergy Satellites has captivated your interest, make sure to join us in Barcelona! Registration for the event is open and you can benefit until 30 November 2018 from the early bird registration rate. Attendance to all Synergy events is included in the congress registration fee.

EAHP EXTENDS OPEN LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS

Earlier this year, EAHP launched its open learning environment, a new educational module for further development of the hospital pharmacy profession within Europe in order to ensure continuous improvement of care and outcomes for patients in the hospital setting. Two new courses were added to the open learning environment over the summer. Now hospital pharmacists can follow courses on biologics and on biosimilars in cancer care in addition to the pre-existing one on anticoagulants.

The open learning course 'Biosimilars in cancer care' aims at providing participants with key information on biosimilar approval in the EU as applied to cancer therapy. By understanding the concepts and facts, hospital pharmacists will be enabled to provide a scientific, unbiased approach with a focus on patient care in a world of limited resources. By gaining insights into the regulatory assessment process and the clinician's perspective in prescribing biosimilars, the ability of hospital pharmacists to advise on how to implement biosimilars of monoclonal antibodies used in cancer therapy will be strengthened.

'The essentials of biologicals—past, present and future' will offer insights into the evolution of biologicals which are an essential treatment option for a variety of diseases in current medicine. Course participants will learn about the development and authorisation of biosimilars as well as the quality criteria of biologicals. In addition, issues of switching and interchangeability of biologicals will be addressed to provide an in-depth understanding of key principles regarding quality, safety and efficacy.

EAHP is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. Participants of the open learning courses will be entitled to 1.5–2 ACPE credits, depending on the length of the course. These credits can be obtained after the completion of the course and a short survey.

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THE 24TH EAHP CONGRESS— REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The registration for EAHP's annual congress—the largest educational event for hospital pharmacists in Europe—is open. Join us from 27 March to 29 March 2019 in Barcelona, Spain. After letting hospital pharmacists show us what they can do in the previous edition, the 24th Congress of EAHP will turn its focus towards individualised pharmacotherapy.

Under the theme 'Personalised Hospital Pharmacy—Meeting the needs of every

patient', hospital pharmacists will be able to explore all aspects of tailored medication and the approach to treatment for different patient groups and individuals. Three key notes together with more than 20 seminars and workshops will analyse personalised hospital pharmacy from all angles linked to the European Statements of Hospital Pharmacy. Based on the success of last year's congress, the Synergy programme has been extended and will continue with many relevant topics.

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