EAHP Congress: register as a participant

Stephanie Kohl

Gothenburg in Sweden, a beautiful city with an exciting cultural life, will be the destination of the 23rd Congress of the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP). Hospital pharmacists from all over the world will be gathering from 21 to 23 March 2018 to attend over 40 educational activities organised under the theme: 'Hospital pharmacists—Show us what you can do!'

This Congress continues to provide hospital pharmacists with an exceptional opportunity to meet, network and share expertise and best practice with colleagues while keeping up to date with the latest developments. The educational programme of the 23rd Congress will focus on a variety of topics to showcase the broad range of work that hospital pharmacists carry out.

During the seminars, particular attention will be given on the one hand to medicine shortages, antimicrobial stewardship, advanced therapy medicinal products, clinical trial regulation and ethics committee. On the other hand, aspects of the productive and the effective pharmacist will be explored in sessions on prioritising, process planning and multidisciplinary teams. Workshops will elaborate on the role of the pharmacist in drugs and therapeutics committees; the assessment and clinical importance of pharmacist recommendations; and the check of medication appropriateness.

To ensure that you can benefit from the 3 keynotes, 19 seminars, 3 workshops, 5 Synergy events and the session on Swedish hospital pharmacy, don't forget to register. Early birds will be rewarded with a reduced registration fee that is available until the end of November.

Participation of students and young professionals is encouraged by specific student/young professional rates and a session specifically tailored to student's needs. Aspiring hospital pharmacists will have the chance to learn about an evidence-based approach to developing an individual patient care plan.

EIU REPORT: ADDRESSING MEDICINE SHORTAGES IN EUROPE

Medicines shortage, one of EAHP's key policy priorities, is in the focus of a new report published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Healthcare. Addressing medicine shortages in Europe: Taking a concerted approach to drive action on economic, manufacturing and regulatory factors discusses the causes contributing to medicine shortages and provides calls for action on how to address these causes. Both the 2014 EAHP report on medicine shortages and the expert contributions by EAHP President Joan Peppard were used as resources for the report.

Overall, the report emphasises that the increase in shortages affects patient outcomes, clinicians, manufacturers as well as pharmacists' time and budgets. The drivers of shortages are dependent on many factors. The three main ones, manufacturing, economic and regulatory causes, are considered by the report, in addition to the different views of stakeholders. The actions that are demanded by the report in relation to the prevention and the management of medicine shortages are those that have been identified as being the most promising ones for the different stakeholder groups.

In terms of prevention, the report calls for the improvement of tendering practice and the consideration of specific measures which maintain healthy multisupplier markets, while for the improvement of shortage management the following actions are demanded:

- ▶ agreement on a common definition of medicine shortages;
- ▶ implementation of a European Union early-notification requirement for manufacturers on national level for situations in which medicine shortages are expected;
- ▶ development of a system that ensures transparency about shortages on national level;
- ▶ enhancement of the efficiency of regulatory procedures and the implementation of fast-track processes to mitigate acute medicine shortages;
- ▶ provision of greater flexibility for the delivery of medicines and the movement of packs across borders during shortage periods.

A key factor to mitigate shortages that was highlighted by the European Shortage Research Network—an initiative funded by European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)—is communication between the different stakeholders. The COST Action, which is led by EAHP Scientific Committee member Professor Helena Jenzer, brings together different stakeholders to address supply problems to patients. The main aim of the initiative over the next 3 years is to understand the steps needed to mitigate the problem of medicine shortages.

EAHP SURVEYS: RESULTS PUBLISHED IN EJHP

The results of the 2016 Statements survey have been published in the September issue of the *European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy (EJHP)*. The 2016 EAHP Statements survey builds on previous surveys and represents the final step in the first cycle of the revised format of the EAHP annual survey. It covers Section 1 (Introductory statements and governance), Section 3 (Production and compounding) and Section 4 (Clinical pharmacy service) of the European Statements.

Like the previous surveys, the 2016 EAHP Statements survey addresses three sections focusing on general hospital pharmacy data, current activities of pharmacists, and the readiness and ability of the hospital to implement the statements. Up to 750 responses from EAHP's 35 member countries were collected. The majority of the participating hospital pharmacies had ≤10 pharmacists, with almost half serving over 500 beds. Questions addressing production and compounding in Section 3 revealed that responders are having less difficulty implementing these statements compared with the ones in Section 4. Mixed reactions were provided in relation to the introductory statements and governance questions in Section 1.

Data collected via the survey will deepen EAHP's knowledge of the level of implementation of Sections 1, 3 and 4 of the Statements. In addition, it helps to identify the main barriers to, and drivers of, implementation. Clinical pharmacy services and participation in multidisciplinary teams are the most challenging Statements for implementation in hospital pharmacies, while the most important barrier to implementation is insufficient capacity and different priorities of hospital and health system managers.

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EAHP Statement 6: Education and Research

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Eur J Hosp Pharm 2017;**24**:368–369.
doi:10.1136/ejhpharm-2017-001422

Competing interests None declared.

Provenance and peer review Commissioned; internally peer reviewed.

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To cite Kohl S. *Eur J Hosp Pharm* 2017;**24**:368–369.