Labour Mobility Report shows support for the creation of a CTF

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On 31 January 2018, the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP) released its Labour Mobility Report during an event hosted on its premises. Representatives of the European Commission, fellow pharmacy organisations and other associations working on the realisation of a common training framework (CTF) had the opportunity to learn more about the views of hospital pharmacists on labour mobility and the EAHP's CTF project.

The report summarises the findings of the survey activity on the attitudes and perspectives of hospital pharmacists on labour mobility by the EAHP. The results collected from the 1039 participating hospital, clinical and community pharmacists in this document are descriptive and represent a snapshot of the current position. Overall, the information collected via the survey shows that hospital pharmacists have an appetite for labour mobility which is currently not realised due to recognition barriers.

The survey activity forms part of the EAHP's CTF project which the associations embarked on in 2014. Its initiation was influenced, on the one hand, by the Pharmine project and, on the other hand, by the 2013 amendment of the Professional Qualification Directive which created the possibility to set up CTFs. In the first stage of the CTF project, the EAHP worked on securing voluntary agreement across countries about the knowledge, skills and attitudes/behaviours that underpin advanced practice in the hospital sector.

Overall, 85% of hospital pharmacists and heads of hospital pharmacy that participated in the survey would support the creation of a CTF for the hospital pharmacy specialisation. Development of the profession, facilitation of exchange of expertise, standardisation in the quality of education and increase of mobility opportunities are in their opinion benefits to be gained by creating a new tool for

automatic cross-border recognition of the hospital pharmacy specialisation.

Moreover, the standardisation of professional training would not only lead to an overall enhancement of the hospital pharmacy profession, but also provide a tremendous improvement in patient care in Europe. Every patient deserves high-quality and safe care. Accordingly, patient care needs to be supported by healthcare professionals who are qualified and knowledgeable to the required level in order to provide the patient with optimal treatment. In this sense, the hospital pharmacy specialisation could be achieved by means of a CTF, being a foundation stone for achieving the best care for patients in hospitals.

The results of the survey make it clear that hospital pharmacists are interested in pursuing their free movement rights. A CTF for the hospital pharmacy specialisation would in the eyes of the survey participants loosen perceived barriers to labour mobility in Europe and make the comparability of competencies, knowledge and skills possible across the continent. In addition, it would set an educational benchmark for all European countries to strive for.

EAHP: HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS—SHOW US WHAT YOU CAN DO!

The 23rd Congress of the EAHP is fast approaching. This coming 21–23 March, the association's Annual Congress will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, featuring satellite symposia, exhibitors and much more. Three keynote speeches are awaiting hospital pharmacists from all over the world which come together to meet, network and share expertise and best practice with colleagues.

Dr Helena Nordenstedt will present a fact-based view on global health and infectious diseases during the first keynote on Wednesday, 21 March. During her presentation, she will discuss demographic trends in the world, underlying reasons and the global disease panorama shift.

On Thursday, 22 March, there will be the second keynote titled 'We have a dream!'. Cheryl McKay and Jonathan Underhill will take their audience on a journey covering the value of hospital pharmacy history and its effect on the

future, the potential opportunities for hospital pharmacy practice and self-awareness on the role of hospital pharmacists.

The third and final keynote, to be held on Friday, 23 March, is titled 'Marketing the hospital pharmacy profession'. As many people are only seldom aware of the work and contributions of hospital pharmacist, this keynote will equip Congress participants with practical and creative approaches to marketing and communication for the promotion of the hospital pharmacist profession.

EAHP 2017: RECAP, 2018 OUTLOOK

Like every year, also in the previous year the EAHP carried out a number of activities, including but not limited to our annual Congress, member events—such as the General Assembly and the Academy Seminar—and our key projects.

The European Statements of Hospital Pharmacy—which were adopted in 2014—express commonly agreed objectives which every European health system should aim for in the delivery of hospital pharmacy services. Since 2016, motivated and enthusiastic hospital pharmacists are helping their countries and others move towards Statement Implementation under the guidance of the EAHP. The implementation ambassadors, which are very vital to the success of the project, held their second meeting in autumn 2017, where they exchanged their progress with each other and learnt about the Self-Assessment Tool. Moreover, the Statement website was launched during the annual EAHP Congress in Cannes in March 2017.

Major progress was also made in relation to the EAHP's second key project—the CTF. In spring 2017, the association conducted a Delphi Consultation on the draft competency framework to secure voluntary agreement across countries about the knowledge, skills and attitudes/behaviours that underpin advanced practice in the hospital sector. With the help of hospital pharmacists, other healthcare professionals, patients/representatives of patient organisations and regulatory bodies participated, the EAHP managed to finalise the draft competency framework. Additionally, the literature review of CTF Working Group 2 was published in the online first edition of the *European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*.

The EAHP's General Assembly saw the voting on a new president-elect Petr Horak (Czech Republic), who will take office in June 2018, as well as the discussion on policy matters. The 34 member countries present at the meeting agreed to revise

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the existing position paper on eHealth and mHealth due to rapid changes in this policy field. In addition, due to increasing interest in the opinion of hospital pharmacists on biosimilar medicines, the EAHP's members adopted a position on this topic. The position paper addresses the role of the hospital pharmacist as well as other matters relevant to the EAHP, such as the naming of biosimilar medicines; extrapolation of indications; interchangeability, switching and substitution of biosimilar medicines; and information about biosimilar medicines.

The two parallel EAHP Academy Seminars held on 29 and 30 September 2017 in Vienna, Austria, focused on 'Hospital Pharmacy Practice Research—Scientific Quality' and 'Antibiotic Stewardship for Beginners'. To further advance research skills, the first seminar included presentations of best practices on pharmacy research, encompassing the formulation of the research question, the study design, outcome measurements and qualitative research. Practical workshops and considerations on the involvement of patients, statistics and medical ethics concluded the 2-day training. Antimicrobial stewardship, one of the EAHP's key policy priorities, featured prominently in the second seminar which touched on consumption surveillance methods, antibiotic therapy and usage data. Workshops on rational antibiotic therapy as well as training on the implementation of antibiotic stewardship teams and awareness raising for medical professionals equipped interested hospital pharmacists with the basic knowledge on these topics.

The EAHP is already preparing to release information on further milestones in the upcoming month. At the end of January, the results of the Labour Mobility Survey—a project that was undertaken by Working Group 2 of the CTF project—will be presented to the public and made available on our website. Furthermore, news on the European Statements of Hospital Pharmacy will be revealed during our annual Congress in March.

EAHP'S 2018 SYNERGY SESSIONS

Only a few weeks to go before the start of the 23rd Congress of the EAHP. Gothenburg, Sweden, will be hosting European and international hospital pharmacists

from 21 to 23 March 2018 that want to share achievements of the profession, be inspired and explore ideas for future development. To help hospital pharmacists prepare for and provide cutting-edge innovation in service delivery and patient care, the 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 five sessions of the upcoming EAHP Congress will focus on biosimilars and biologicals, automation as well as anticoagulants.

Two biosimilar Synergy Satellites will concentrate on cancer therapy since patent expirations for biologics that have long been used in the targeted treatment of cancer are now occurring. Biosimilars in cancer care—the next challenge (financial support was provided by Pfizer Limited as a Medical and Educational Goods and Service)—will approach this subject from a broader angle by providing participants with the key fact on biosimilar approval in the European Union 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.

Biosimilars in breast cancer—the next challenge (sponsored by an education grant from Amgen)—will take a closer look at biosimilars like trastuzumab, the key treatment option in patients with HER2-positive breast cancer which will soon be coming into the market, and other biosimilars as key treatment options. This session will be particularly interesting for hospital pharmacists involved in oncology as it will equip them with specific knowledge on the quality and clinical background of the approval process. At the same time the session will be exploring the role of biosimilars in budget management in the breast cancer setting, considering all the new therapeutic options available for this disease.

The introduction of new anticoagulants means new options in the prevention

and treatment of thromboembolic events. Anticoagulation—from theory to practice (sponsored by an educational grant from Bayer)—will strengthen the role of the hospital pharmacist in maintaining the awareness of new agents, its management, adverse effects and educating the patients about their drugs and importance of adherence.

For over a century, hospital pharmacists were focused on manual work and logistic burden of compounding and dispensing. To improve patient safety, they have shifted this focus during the last decades from product-driven towards therapy and the implementation of clinical pharmacy and clinical validation. The basic tasks must continue to maintain the highest quality to prevent medication errors. The power of automation! (sponsored by an educational grant from Omnicell) will thus take a closer look at the opportunities and pitfalls of implementing automation in the hospital pharmacy.

As hospital pharmacists are responsible for selecting and assessing biologicals and biosimilars and monitoring their use, they need to have an in-depth understanding of key principles regarding quality, safety and efficacy. The essentials of biologicals—past, present and future (sponsored by an educational grant from Sandoz)—will consequently explore the evolution of biologicals which are an essential treatment option for a variety of diseases in current medicine. Participants of this synergy session 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.

Section 6: Research and Education

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