

## European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy

### EAFP Organization

#### From the President: EAFP Advocacy in the International Global Education Setting

EAFP is an affiliated member organisation of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and through this position puts forward advances in pharmacy education in the European region. During the last FIP 2019 World Congress held in Abu Dhabi last month, EAFP facilitated a Deans Forum Session, renamed to the Academic Global Leaders Forum (GALF), which addressed the ongoing discussion of breaking the silos in the curricula and achieve an infusion of science and practice.

Updating of pharmacy curricula that provide graduates with a skill mix which relies on a scientific basis that supports a patient-centred practice and applied research focus is a desirable trend to ensure relevant pharmacy education for the market needs. Within the European region, pharmacy educators agree that the question is not whether we should break the silos but how we can break the silos and infuse the science along the curriculum. The credit-based curriculum system may be a challenge to move away from compartmentalisation of subjects and course content. At the same time pharmacy curricula need to focus on patient needs, or rather a people-centred concept, safety, quality and efficacy of medicinal products and pharmaceutical processes. This scenario was presented during the GALF session in Abu Dhabi and it was an opportunity to discuss the work done in EAFP leading to the EAFP 2018 Position paper where it is emphasised that a patient-oriented inspiration is transmitted in pharmacy education by providing a science-based patient-centred approach which embraces skills that contribute to patient safety in terms of logic processing, accountability, error minimisation and risk mitigation. Dimitris Rekkas, Vice-President of EAFP put forward this philosophical concept giving examples of how to maintain a patient-focus within an extended science-based curriculum that captures skills that are relevant to the needs of today's workforce including precision medicine, big data, artificial intelligence, blockchain. Giovanni Pauletti, Scientific Secretary for FIP and David Thompson from the University of Colorado, USA gave examples of integrating practice within science-based study units such as medicinal chemistry and pharmacology.

During the FIP Regional Conference for the European Region held in October 2019 in Ankara, Turkey, EAFP is supporting the session on Human Resources for Health: Education and Training to meet the envisioned pharmaceutical competencies. Kristien De Paepe, Executive Committee member is co-chairing the session to transmit EAFP work in this area.

As a means to achieve one of the missions of EAFP to contribute to the advancement of pharmacy education in Europe establishing a vision for pharmacy education for the next years is required so as to guide pharmacy educators on updates in the pharmacy education experience to ensure relevance and availability of a sustainable pharmaceutical workforce. Last May, during the EAFP Annual Conference Deans Forum session the launch of the initiative of developing 'Standards for Pharmacy Education' in Europe was announced. The Standards serve as a European consensus on pharmacy education in Europe. They are not intended to be prescriptive. The Standards will provide a:

- guide to the development, updating and evaluation of pharmacy education programmes
- framework that may be customised for local content
- focus on competences targeted at basic pharmacy education and postgraduate pharmacy education

The process for the development of the Standards will draw on the established collaboration with partners and stakeholders in Europe and internationally.

As we plan the roll-out of this project, I am excited on having EAFP members contribute to this exercise so that we can transpose our experiences to a European vision for pharmacy education which supports international advocacy on pharmacy education.

**Lilian M. Azzopardi**

University of Malta



## Pharmacy Education

### Report of the 2019 Prato Pharmacy Education Symposium

Every two years this conference is organized by Monash University (Melbourne, Australia) in collaboration with FIP. The 3-day conference is always held in early July in Prato (near Florence, Italy) and completely devoted to innovation and research of pharmacy education. In the 2019 conference three plenary presentations (managing change, development of sustainable health curriculum, education for reflective practice) and eleven workshops (in parallel sessions) were programmed. The workshops elaborated on the topics of the plenary presentations and other generic subjects (threshold concepts, academic integrity, therapeutic reasoning, building resilience, personalized feedback, etc.). For those interested in innovation and research of pharmacy education, this conference is a rich source of information and creates opportunities for contacts with other researchers.

This year, 32 oral and 94 poster presentations were devoted to the Development of educational frameworks (8), Teaching innovations (34), Practice-oriented research (15) and Educational research (60). Every conference participant was expected to contribute by presenting her/his research results, the total number of participants being limited to 130. By tradition most participants in this conference come from the Anglo-Saxon world. During the 10th conference this year, approximately 45 contributions originated from the USA/Canada and the United Kingdom each, 30 from Australia and (only) 15 from other parts of the world (Asia, Africa, Europe). Continental Europe is not very well represented in this conference, but luckily all abstracts and posters can be found on the conference website (look under Abstracts):

<https://www.monash.edu/pharm/about/events/education-symposium>

### Report from the EAFP Annual Conference May 15-17 Krakow, Poland

During the Plenary Lecture, Martin Seychell, Deputy Director General DG Santé, European Commission, Brussels, presented the challenges faced within healthcare and how the contribution by pharmacists may improve access to innovative medicines, reduce occurrence of non-communicable diseases in Europe and improve health outcomes.

Factors contributing to changes in healthcare systems and how pharmacy education may support development of pharmacists with required competences that were discussed were:

- precision medicines;
- medical devices, herbal and food supplements;
- inter-professional education;
- big data and artificial intelligence.

The challenge in pharmacy teaching is to prepare professionals able to cope with the needs of **better medicines** and **improved patient care**. To prepare

better professionals the classical **disease-oriented** education should become **patient oriented**.

Pharmacy education should:

- ensure **abilities and competences**;
- **reinforce and update the knowledge in pharmaceutical sciences**;
- develop the relationship with **other health professional**, such as medical doctors and nurses, and with the society;
- prepare for **lifelong learning** and for innovative and digital networking;
- improve patient and inter-professional **communication**.

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## NEWS

### EAFP Next Annual Conference

The 2020 EAFP Annual Conference will be organised in collaboration with the Department of Pharmacy of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Malta in Malta between 6 and 8 May.

The theme of the conference is '*Synergism in Pharmacy Education: A New Dimension*'. The theme highlights the need for pharmacy educators to collaborate and facilitate discussion with stakeholders in pharmacy and in other related disciplines. Drawing on the pillars identified for pharmacy education in the **EAFP 2018 Position Paper**, the conference plenary sessions will focus on:

- Synergism in Education to meet needs of Innovation: to prepare graduates with skills and competences that are relevant to the expectations from the pharmaceutical workforce.
- Synergism of Expertise: to draw on developing graduates who are team players by incorporating interprofessional education and extending relationships with experts from the field
- Synergism in Learning: using innovative teaching methods to provide a hands-on impactful education experience.

The Department of Pharmacy at the University of Malta was established within the Medical School in 1676 when the Council of the Order of the Knights of St John approved the Grandmaster's decision for the foundation of the faculty at the Sacra Infermeria in Valletta. The University of Malta was established in Valletta by the Knights of St John within the Jesuit College building which dates back to 1595. The conference will be held within this Valletta historical campus. A number of hotels are available in Valletta which provide the opportunity for conference participants to experience the charm of the city of Valletta.

Registration is open at the conference website <https://eafponline.eu/conference2020/>

Abstract submission will be opened soon and deadline for submissions is 1 February 2020.