

European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy

NEWSLETTER

From the President: Multifacets in globalisation

One of the advantages offered with an institutional membership within the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy is the positioning within a network of pharmacy educators. This positioning is useful to learn from each other without any obligation to move in that same direction.

Many examples of good practice in pharmacy education evolved when the promoters of the model reflected on the experiences of others, identified weaknesses, strengthened the idea and adapted to their own setting needs. Some sceptics feel that globalisation is nice but is not relevant to education evolvments at an institutional level, since having a one size fits all in pharmacy education can never be achieved. These thoughts brought to my attention the article by Mohammed A. Rashid from University College London Medical School carried in the Medical Teacher journal recently on *Hyperglobalist, sceptical and transformationalist perspectives on globaliization in medical education*. The perspective brought forward was that globalisation in healthcare and in education is multifaceted. Networking is one aspect of globalisation. Challenges occurring in higher education institutions, be it either people-power and capacity-building, or attracting students into the profession, or financial implications, are similar across different countries. Being able to connect with colleagues within an Association, empowers

pharmacy education leaders with broader vision, strategies to overcome the complexities of the challenges encountered.

Another facet from globalisation that can be achieved through networking within an Association is the connections and collaborations that support joint publications and European grant applications within research initiatives.

I would like to conclude this reflection by inviting you to join EAFP for 2023 so as to be part of the networking and globalisation in pharmacy education. I would like to highlight the open applications for the **Partnership for Education Development Grants and Partnership for Research Development Grants**.



Lilian M. Azzopardi

President, EAFP

University of Malta



EAFP Conference 2022 – Towards Pharmacy 5.0 Education

The EAFP Annual Conference was held as an in-person conference in Valletta, Malta, between 11 and 13 May 2022, with the theme 'Towards Pharmacy 5.0 Education'.

The scientific programme kicked off with a pre-conference workshop 'Factories of the Future and the Pharmaceutical Industry', and included presentations about successes and challenges of the evolving pharmaceutical industry and about the future of biologics manufacturing which were delivered by Spyros Kintzios, Director of Corporate Development, Uni-Pharma in Greece and Thomas Hauser, Business Development Manager Europe of G-CON Manufacturing. Presentations were followed by a panel discussion with stakeholders from the local pharmaceutical industry.

Three stimulating plenary sessions were delivered. The first plenary focused on 'Digital Readiness in Education and Practice', with contributions by Professor Janusz Janczukowicz from the Medical University of Lodz in Poland who discussed the application of digitalization in healthcare professionals' education to achieve holistic patient-centredness and by Spyros Kintzios who addressed gaps in digital readiness in the pharmaceutical scenario. The second plenary session focused on 'Multidimensional competencies for 5.0 Pharmacists', with Professor Janusz Janczukowicz presenting thoughts on transforming leadership as the core competency of the contemporary health workforce and Professor Roberto Nisticò from Tor Vergata University in Rome, Italy, who focused on the application of the contemporary scientific discipline of regulatory sciences in pharmacy studies. In

the third plenary session, 'Teaching Methods and Innovation', presentations by Professor Giuseppe Ronsisvalle from the University of Catania in Italy and by Max Willie Georgi, European Pharmaceutical Students Association Training Coordinator, elucidated innovative teaching methods in higher education and the demand for fast changing skills and qualifications, including pharmaceutical students' perspective.

Seventy-nine research abstracts were presented during the conference; 10 as oral communications, 13 as oral poster previews and 56 as poster presentations. The abstracts focused on state-of-the-art learning and teaching tools, innovative assessment methods, competencies development and interprofessional collaboration in education.

The conference featured two parallel workshops: a workshop which focused on designing integrated courses, led by Professor Andries Koster from the University of Utrecht in The Netherlands and a workshop which was organised in collaboration with the International Pharmaceutical Federation which focused on integrating digital health into pharmaceutical education focusing on knowledge, skills and policy aspects, led by Dr Ozge Ozer, Professor Ralph J. Altieri and Professor Lilian M. Azzopardi.

Partnership for Education Development and Partnership for Research Development grant awardees, Martina Šutorová from the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy, Košice, Slovakia and Anita Tuula from the University of Tartu, Estonia, presented finalization of the projects during the EAFP Grant Awards session.

Šutorová et al focused on the development of a database to facilitate cross-border healthcare and work by Tuula et al discussed pharmacist-led medication reviews in Eastern Europe. In these two projects digitalisation is used by the pharmacist as an effective tool to improve provision of healthcare across different countries and to manage patient health records when conducting medication reviews.

Conference Proceedings were published in Pharmacy Education Journal and can be accessed here <https://pharmacyeducation.fip.org/pharmacyeducation/issue/view/74>



EAFP GRANTS

EAFP offers 4 partnership development grants yearly. Awarding of each grant provides a maximum of 2000 euro plus free participation in an EAFP Annual conference.

The grants are intended to facilitate networking between European member institutions to help identify opportunities for research (PRD-grant) and education (PED-grant). Funding for members and member institutions are provided to help assist in the starting up of innovative projects and collaborations. Project-funded activities must take place within one year after their grant allocation.

Details about eligibility criteria and the application form can be found at: <https://eafponline.eu/grants/>.

The 2019 PED and PRD grants were presented during the 2022 Annual Conference. A summary of the projects results is reproduced in the newsletter.

EAFP Partnership for Education Development Grant: Providing Cross-Border Healthcare: Database of medical prescriptions from selected countries in Europe

Šutorová M., Kurhajec S., Kolář J.

University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy, Košice, Slovakia

Pharmacists check prescriptions for administrative correctness, logistic availability and pharmacotherapeutic appropriateness. National prescription templates differ across European Union (EU) countries. Prescription format varies according to country. When dispensing medicines, pharmacists follow local regulations concerning maximum number of medicine packages dispensed per one prescription or validity of the prescription. Pharmacists have the right to refuse to dispense a medicine if there is doubt on the authenticity, content, or comprehensibility of the prescription.

The objectives of this project were to describe the current provision of cross-border healthcare among selected EU countries. Information about prescribing rules and standards by comparison of national medical prescription forms was obtained.

Each EU country included in the study uses two formats of medical prescription: paper and electronic. Slovakia, Ireland and Finland use specific medical prescription formats for cross-border healthcare. It is still required to either have a paper medical prescription or a paper copy of the electronic prescription to collect the medicine from a pharmacy in the

majority of the EU countries. In some countries, a copy of the electronic prescription is not needed, for example, Estonian digital prescriptions are also valid in Finland and Croatia.

Data collected served as a basis for designing a freely available virtual database in the form of a website. 'www.rxforms.eu' was chosen as a domain name for a database of medical prescriptions from selected countries in Europe. The webpage is available in Slovak and English. The website has two main sections: Medicinal prescriptions and National contact points for cross-border healthcare. Included in the website are 70 different prescription forms from 23 European countries, 20 countries from the EU and 3 countries outside the EU and prescription regulations and rules. For each of the 23 countries, the types of medicines and number of packages which can be included in one prescription, information about narcotics and psychotropic substances and validity of prescriptions were included.

The website was created with the aim to increase access to relevant information for students of pharmaceutical faculties and as a study aid for pharmacists. Students and pharmacists can use the database of medical prescriptions to verify the authenticity, accuracy, or validity of prescriptions, especially when working abroad. Availability of a database of templates of medical prescriptions and legislative information related to medication available in different EU countries may facilitate interactions between patients and healthcare professionals and lead to an improvement in cross-border healthcare.

EAFP Partnership for Research Development Grant: Introduction of Pharmacist-led Medication Reviews in Eastern Europe: First Steps

Anita Tuula , Daisy Volmer

Institute of Pharmacy, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Inappropriate prescribing of polypharmacy is a common yet serious concern, mainly in older multimorbid patients. The concurrent use of five or more medicines has been known to increase risks for medication errors, adverse drug reactions (ADRs), geriatric syndromes and morbidity. To support appropriate prescribing of polypharmacy, pharmacist-led medication reviews have been implemented . Medication review (MR) is a structured evaluation of a patient's medicines to optimize medicines use and improve health outcomes. Although conducting MRs is now a globally-accepted method for ensuring medication safety in polypharmacy according to the World Health Organisation's 2019 report *Medication Safety in Polypharmacy*, the service has not been implemented in community pharmacies in most Eastern-European countries.

The aim of the project was to map factors facilitating and hindering implementation of community pharmacist-led MR and introduce the service in Eastern Europe. Eleven MR network countries were included in the study: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Bulgaria and Iran. In September 2019, the MR network countries performed document analysis and qualitative interviews with key stakeholders to identify factors encouraging and hindering a MR service in their country.

Facilitators for implementation of MRs were increase in polypharmacy and access to patients' medication data by pharmacists. Barriers included MRs being unfamiliar among physicians, pharmacists and patients, financing of MRs and lack of private consultation rooms in community pharmacies.

The MR standard adapted from Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe 2013 statement and amended in Estonia (Figure 1) was piloted in MR network countries between January 2019 until March 2021. By 2021, the pharmacist-led MRs was introduced in 8 out of 11 MR countries (Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria). Three hundred and eighty-three patients who were mainly elderly multimorbid polypharmacy patients participated in the study.

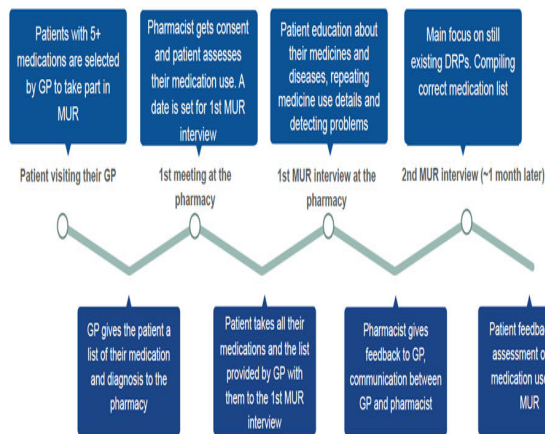


Figure 1. Service description for the Eastern-European pilot.

As polypharmacy is an increasing concern in Eastern Europe, routine MRs are needed to ensure safe and effective use of medicines. Barriers at organizational and healthcare policy levels must be overcome for successful implementation of MRs. First steps in the introduction of MRs in Eastern Europe have been made.

The EAFP research grant partners from Riga Stradins University, Varna Medical University, University of Tartu thank the organization for the support and opportunity to present initial results at the EAFP annual conference in Valletta this year.

EAFP NEWS

EAFP 2023 Conference

The EAFP 2023 Annual Conference will be held between 17-19 May 2023 in Valencia, Spain. Further details will be released in January 2023.



Membership invitation for 2023

The process for renewal of membership for 2023 has started and you will be receiving invoices accordingly.

Applications for new institutional membership of individual membership are welcome. Kindly visit: <https://eafponline.eu/about/membership/> for information about the different ways to join EAFP.

Benefits of becoming members include:

- reduced conference fees for all faculty and/or staff members
- enhanced visibility of the institution on the EAFP website
- enhanced visibility of activities and conferences
- access to EAFP research and education development grants
- involvement in European decision making
- assistance with staff and/or faculty recruitment

We invite colleagues who are coming from institutions which are not members to join as an individual member to benefit from conference membership fees and other benefits such as participation in the Grant applications.

We look forward to welcome you for 2023.

EAFP Award for the Advancement of Pharmacy in Europe

EAFP issued a call for nominations for the 'EAFP Award for the Advancement of Pharmacy in Europe'. The scope was to recognise individuals who are contributing in an outstanding way to the development of pharmacy education. Jury for the award was composed of all member organisations (membership for the past three years), through the Dean of the School or a delegate. Nominations were based on the following criteria: pharmacists active in supporting educational and professional developments who demonstrated record of contribution to leadership and advocacy for the advancement of pharmacy education and the profession. Award recipient will be announced in March 2023.

NEWS ON PHARMACY EDUCATION IN THE EU

EU Curriculum Mapping Exercise: An update

In 2020, the Directorate for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission embarked on an exercise to map and assess developments in pharmacy education. This exercise was undertaken to identify possible future updates of the minimum training requirements for the profession of pharmacist under Directive 2005/36/EC. During the 2022 EAFP Annual Conference, an update on the exercise with reflections on aspects that are being considered to be absorbed into the Directive

In the future.

EAFP has contributed to the exercise carried out by the Commission through stakeholders discussions and by participating in the consultation rounds. Following finalisation of the study early this year, the subjects identified to be included in the course of training were: pharmacy practice; clinical pharmacy, pharmaceutical care and social pharmacy; biopharmaceutical technology within pharmaceutical technology, genetics and pharmacogenomics, immunology; public health including epidemiology; pathology and pathophysiology; health economics and pharmaceutical economics. Skills related to application of clinical pharmacy, pharmaceutical care, inter and multi-disciplinary collaboration, communication, interprofessional practice, health promotion and disease management have been identified as new knowledge and skills to be included in the Directive.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New FIP Academic Institutional Membership Chair Elect

During the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress, announcement was made that Professor Lilian M. Azzopardi, President of EAFP and Head of the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Malta was elected as the new FIP Academic Institutional Membership Chair Elect. Prof Azzopardi will take up the position as AIM chair in September 2023.



Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy: Call for submissions

The Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (JACCP) publishes papers related to aspects of clinical pharmacy education and training and clinical pharmacy practice including practice-based implementation science, credentialing and privileging of clinical pharmacists and clinical pharmacy services delivery models. Author submission is free of charge. Further details can be found on:

<https://accpjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/25749870>

LITERATURE ALERT

Books

⇒ A guide to online Pharmacy Education: Teaching strategies and assessment methods. Al-Worafi Y, CRC Press, 2022

The book serves as a resource for pharmacy educators, researchers, practitioners and students. Teaching and assessment methods and strategies used in pharmacy education are compared and ways on how to implement strategies discussed. Different styles of teaching including lectures, team-based learning, web based and online learning are described.

Peer reviewed journal articles:

⇒ Pharmacy students' knowledge and confidence of COVID-19 following an interactive didactic class. Kufel et al. Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy available online 3 November 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1002/jac5.1678>

Pharmacy students' knowledge and confidence about COVID-19 prevention and management was evaluated before and after an interactive didactic class (IDC) as part of an infectious disease elective course. Delivery of a COVID-19 IDC resulted in improvements in knowledge and confidence of students towards COVID-19 management and prevention.

⇒ Student pharmacists' perspectives on health equity following a co-curricular activity. Irwin et al. Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy available online 3 November 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1002/jac5.1663>

Student learning using reflections written following participation in a health fair providing free health services was described. Engagement in co-curricular programmes involving public health outreach increased student self-awareness and awareness about social determinants of health and health equity.

⇒ Design considerations for cases used in pharmacy testing and learning using the case difficulty cube. Spark et al. Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning available online 1 November 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cptl.2022.09.008>

The case difficulty cube is a model from business education which assigns case difficulty based on concept, analysis and presentation and was adapted for pharmacy education and health science disciplines (modCDC).

Evaluation using cases from undergraduate pharmacy examinations revealed that the modCDC is a simple tool that can help academic staff assess students.

⇒ Medication review in multi-morbid geriatric patients: A training program for pharmacy students in Germany. Wernecke et al. *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning* available online 1 November 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cptl.2022.09.002>

Geriatric patient medication review training programme was implemented for pharmacy students. Students following the programme were evaluated using simulated patient scenarios before and after the training. Training helped students prioritise and manage medication reviews.

⇒ Developing pharmacists' competencies in Saudi Arabia: A proposed national competency framework to support initial education and professional development. Alfaifi et al. *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning* available online 1 November 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cptl.2022.09.010>

The first competency framework for foundation level pharmacists in Saudi Arabia was developed using the International Pharmaceutical Federation Global Competency Framework as the source. Surveys and online meetings with local experts from various pharmacy sectors were held. The first competency framework for foundation level pharmacists in Saudi Arabia was proposed. The developed framework helps support excellence in pharmacy education, pharmacist performance and pharmacy services of Saudi Arabia.

⇒ Does team based learning in the pharmacy classroom foster leadership skills in the workplace? Haight et al. *Innovations in Pharmacy* available online 1 November 2022, <https://doi.org/10.24926/iip.v13i3.4304>

Preceptors and students following team based learning (TBL) were interviewed. Preceptors identified communication, emotional intelligence and education as being top themes which are important to being a leader while students identified communication, accountability or responsibility and patients as being skills developed by TBL. Participants believed that TBL was a contributor to the development of affective domain skills among student pharmacists.

⇒ Evaluation of the effectiveness and staff acceptance of education strategies to improve medication safety. Hills et al. *Pharmacy Education* available online 31 October 2022, <https://doi.org/10.46542/pe.2022.221.428435>

A survey was disseminated to compare and evaluate different types of education to improve medication safety and the clinical impact and satisfaction reported by staff. Staff preferred learning through different learning modalities which are themed around topics of medication updates, quick and concise messages and relevance to practice.

⇒ An entrepreneurial activity implementation and assessment among pharmacy students amid the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Nguyen EV et al. *Pharmacy Education* available online 31 October 2022, <https://doi.org/10.46542/pe.2022.221.1622>

The objective of the research was to assess innovation and entrepreneurship (IE) learning experience in first-year doctor of pharmacy students using presentations based on the Shark Tank model. IE learning experience emphasised the importance of self-care needs of the society during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such activities can help implement IE in educational programmes.

Invitation from the Editor

Dear EAFP Newsletter readers! We look forward to your contributions on topics related to pharmaceutical education. Share your practical experiences, interesting studies or articles. Please forward your contribution to daisy.volmer@ut.ee Thank you!



Daisy Volmer

Editor

University of Tartu, Estonia

The EAFP team invites you to:

- ◆ Renew your membership for 2023
- ◆ Submit your nominations for the EAFP Award for the Advancement of Pharmacy in Europe (submission deadline extended to 20 December 2022)
- ◆ Save the date for the upcoming EAFP Conference in Valencia (17-19 May 2023)

Follow EAFP News and forthcoming activities at our website:

<https://eafponline.eu/>

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