



Sustainability in Pharmacy, Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacy Education

Valencia, 17-19 May, 2023















VNIVERSITAT DÖVALÈNCIA Vicerectorat de Sostenibilitat, Cooperació i Vida Saludable







Editores:

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ISBN:

978-84-09-51373-4



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Lilian M. Azzopardi

President, EAFP - Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacy, University of Malta

Sustainability and Pharmacy

The 2023 Annual Conference for the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy is dedicated to Sustainability in Pharmacy, Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacy Education. First thoughts are what aspect of sustainability are being considered. The theme is broad because sustainability in pharmacy has various facets and pharmacy educators are responsible to contribute directly or indirectly to the different aspects.

Faculties of pharmacy are engaged in complementing the efforts undertaken by Higher Education Institutions towards contributing to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This engagement is focuses on addressing global challenges at institutional level related to inequality, climate and environmental degradation, and peace. For Pharmacy, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, launched 21 Development Goals to serve as facilitators for the transformation of the pharmacy profession in alignment with the vision of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Within these goals, one is specifically dedicated to Sustainability.

Faculties of pharmacy are key players to contribute to: 1) pharmaceutical workforce development so as to align workforce skills and competences with evolvements in pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy practice, 2) ecological sustainability through social and societal contributions and research and innovation to support green pharmaceutical practices in the development, manufacturing, distribution and use of medicinal products 3) pharmacy education that reflects resilience, relevance and validity in the context of meeting student expectations and stakeholders' needs.

The scientific programme addresses these three dimensions of sustainability in pharmacy and plenary sessions provide the opportunity for discussions on contributions by pharmacy educators in promoting sustainability in the pharmaceutical industry, in education and workforce development, and in pharmaceutical services. A highlight of the EAFP conference is that it serves as a networking platform where in itself networking is a powerful tool that supports sustainability- we are all learning from each other and collaborations magnify our contributions. The mission of EAFP is to serve at the forefront of developments in pharmacy education and pharmacy supporting networking within pharmacy educators in Europe and creating bridges within the global context. EAFP invests in providing Education and Research Grants so as to spur collaborations between members. I invite you to consider the opportunities provided through the grant applications which support collaboration and development.

This year's Annual Conference is being hosted in collaboration with the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Valencia. Unfortunately during the preparations for this conference, EAFP lost a colleague and an Executive Committee member, Professor Teresa Garrigues, who was the instrumental link in getting EAFP close to the University of Valencia. With the passing away of Teresa, most importantly we miss a friend. It is appropriate to dedicate this Annual Conference to the memory of Professor Teresa Garrigues and Professor Jeffrey Atkinson, Past-President of EAFP who also passed away earlier this year. In their honour, I invite you to discuss and share experiences of how, as pharmacy educators, we can contribute to the alignment of pharmacy towards sustainability in the broad context.

Hortensia Rico

Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Valencia

Emilia Ferrer

EAFP 2023 Conference Chair

In the thirteenth century, higher education was established in the city of Valencia thanks to King James I of Aragon who had obtained a Studium Generale institution from Pope Innocent IV in 1245. However, it was not until 30 October 1499 that the Juries of Valencia drew up the Constitutions of what was about to become the first University of Valencia: a university authorised by the Papal Bull on 23 January 1501, signed by the Valencian Pope Alexander VI and by the royal privilege of Ferdinand II the Catholic. It was granted on 16 February 1502.

For more than 500 years, the development of the University of Valencia has run in parallel with the development of the city and has been an inextricable part of its urban fabric, creating spaces for teaching, research, development and dissemination of culture and science as well as knowledge exchange.

Today, the University of Valencia is the result of more than five centuries of history that have led to the accumulation of knowledge and unique documentary treasures, making it one of the top Spanish universities. The University of Valencia is one to the top five scientific centres in Spain thanks to its commitment to excellence and to the wide range of teaching and research activities offered in all areas of knowledge (basic sciences and engineering, health sciences, educational sciences, humanities and social sciences and economics and law).

On November 10, 1868, the Council of Valencia accepted the establishment of the Free Faculty of Pharmacy, which was commissioned for the delivery of these studies in the city of Valencia. Unfortunately, five years later, on September 28, 1874, the Excellent Provincial Council agreed to close the Faculty, stating the reason as the "lack of prosperity of the accountability of this corporation".

A century later, in October 1974, the studies required for obtaining a Pharmacy degree were resumed at the Technical School of Agricultural Engineers at L'antic Passeig de València al Mar, currently named Blasco Ibañez.

After a short period of transition in which the lectures were given in an annexed building of the School, which was originally destined to be the University Canteens. The lectures began in the 1978-79 course at the building which, up to that moment, had been the Faculty of Sciences (current Office of the Principal of the University) and which were free due to its transfer to the Burjassot Campus.

It was at that time, that the procedures for the construction of a new building started. They were finished on September 30, 1992, with the inauguration of the current Faculty at the Burjassot Campus. This building was awarded with the National Architecture Award the following year.

Today, the Faculty of Pharmacy offers Degrees in Pharmacy, Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Food Science and Technology, Gastronomic Science and a Double Degree in Pharmacy and Human Nutrition and Dietetics. It also offers official Masters Degrees in Research and Rational use of Medicines, Public Health and Health Management, Personal and Community Nutrition, Food Quality and Safety and Tropical Parasitic Diseases. The internationalisation of the faculty is reflected by the agreements for the mobility exchanges between more than 60 European Universities.

The mission of our Faculty of Pharmacy is to train competent professionals at European Professional Standard, and to encourage prestigious research with international implications that will contribute to the development of our society. Through training and research, we promote the dissemination of science and culture, and also the reaffirmation of democratic values of the society. Therefore, different values are embodied in the actions of the Faculty of Pharmacy, such as, excellence, innovation, solidarity and cooperation, and sustainability.

The Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Valencia is proud to organise and host the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (EAFP) Conference on "Sustainability in Pharmacy, Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacy Education". It is an honour for us that the EAFP has entrusted us with organising this conference, we have therefore worked tirelessly to develop an innovative and up-to-date programme that enables us all to address the current and future situations that face the pharmaceutical profession, and also the most important challenges that will be presented to us in the training of future pharmacy professionals.

We have prepared a Congress with the participation of international researchers from different European Pharmacy Faculties, the Pharmaceutical Industry, Health Authorities, Professional Associations and Non-Governmental Organisations. The congress will take place over three days, the first day will be dedicated to Sustainability in Pharmaceutical Sciences, the second dedicated to Sustainability in Pharmacy Practice and the final day to Sustainability in University with different plenary sessions, oral and poster presentations, and workshops.

Due to its climate and size, Valencia is a city that invites you to explore its streets and experience its abundant beauty and vibrant atmosphere. Therefore, we have arranged a social programme to complement the Conference that will allow us all to enjoy the company of our colleagues in a more relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

We hope that all attendees will have an enjoyable experience during both the scientific and social programmes.

Welcome to the EAFP 2023 Conference, and Welcome to Valencia!

Teresa Garrigues. Her cheerful, vital, and fighting character was a constant throughout her life and that is the memory we must keep. We were privileged to be able to share the day with her. The expressions of affection that were received from the faculty members and people from other Centers of the UV and across Europe, indicate the scope of her personality, and it is that which was impossible not to love Teresa.

