



# EPSA NEWS LETTER

bringing pharmacy, knowledge and students together

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EPSA  
ANNUAL  
RECEPTION  
2011

23<sup>rd</sup> DIA  
Eurometing

Geneva, Switzerland

INTERVIEW

Imanol Monteagudo

EPSA President 1998 / 1999

Bringing  
Pharmacy  
Knowledge  
and Students  
together

this newsletter is produced by  
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members, national pharmaceutical  
students' organisations, faculties,  
official bodies and sponsors



## Ask your Pharmacist first

*Promoting the role of  
Pharmacists as providers of  
healthcare in the community*

Across Europe, Governments and the general public are expecting pharmacists to play a more active role in the provision of healthcare in the community. More than ever before, pharmacists have a *primary care role* and are the first port of call for consumers with a minor health problem.

**GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Consumer Healthcare is working with pharmacists across Europe to support their role as primary care experts through its "Ask Your Pharmacist First" initiative.**

**Ask your Pharmacist First** is a unique partnership between GSK and pharmacists currently operating in more than 20 countries in Europe. Its objectives are to:

- Help promote pharmacists as experts
- Encourage people to visit pharmacies more frequently
- Provide training for pharmacists and assistants so they can offer the best professional advice to their customers

This support programme incorporates consumer advertising and extensive pharmacy training materials. The most recent example of GSK's "Ask Your Pharmacist First" initiative in action can be seen in the area of obesity.

In January 2009, GSK received a non-prescription licence for **alli**<sup>®</sup> (orlistat 60mg). **alli**<sup>®</sup> is the *first* non-prescription weight loss aid to receive a licence from the European Commission.

### What is alli<sup>®</sup>?

**alli**<sup>®</sup> is a weight loss aid for adults who are overweight with a BMI of 28kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more and should be used with a reduced calorie, lower-fat diet.

**alli**<sup>®</sup> can help people lose 50% more weight compared to dieting alone. So for every two kilograms lost by dieting, **alli**<sup>®</sup> could help lose one kg more.

**Pharmacists are ideally placed to help provide customers with information and support whilst they are undertaking a weight-loss programme.**

alli<sup>®</sup>



### DID YOU KNOW...?

- In 2005, the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated that by 2010, 150 million adults in Europe would be obese<sup>1</sup>.
- Recent studies have shown that **alli**<sup>®</sup> can significantly help people to reduce their VISCERAL FAT and therefore cut the risks of developing associated diseases such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and stroke<sup>2,3</sup>.  
[www.myalli.com/](http://www.myalli.com/)
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2010, GSK supported the first ever European Obesity Day; a day dedicated to the support of overweight and obese European citizens.  
[www.obesityday.eu/](http://www.obesityday.eu/)



[www.obesityday.eu/](http://www.obesityday.eu/)

### Pharmacy support and training through "Ask Your Pharmacist First"

GSK offers comprehensive training to ensure that pharmacists and pharmacy assistants are fully informed about **alli**<sup>®</sup> and the support programme.

To date, more than 200,000 pharmacy staff in over 60,000 pharmacies across Europe have been trained. The training includes workshops, distance learning and comprehensive detail aids.

***This is a great example of how GSK is working closely with European pharmacists to help people to live a healthier and longer life.***

#### References

<sup>1</sup> WHO. *The challenge of obesity in the WHO European region*. Fact sheet Euro/13/05. 2005. Available from: [www.euro.who.int/document/mediacentre/fs1305e.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/document/mediacentre/fs1305e.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Orlistat 60 mg in conjunction with diet provides significant reduction in visceral adipose tissue.

Poster presented at: 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Abdominal Obesity, 2009, Hong Kong.

<sup>3</sup> Greenway F, Smith SR, Murray K et al. Orlistat 60 mg demonstrates a significant reduction in visceral adipose tissue at 24 weeks compared with placebo.

Poster presented at: 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Abdominal Obesity, 2009, Hong Kong.



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Dear Reader,

It is overwhelming how fast time goes by and how suddenly the time has passed until the EPSA event of the year: The 34<sup>th</sup> EPSA Annual Congress that takes place in Lisbon, Portugal. During this congress the 41<sup>st</sup> EPSA General Assembly will elect the new EPSA Team members and this means that this is the last Newsletter that I have the chance to present you.

I believe that EPSA has developed greatly this year. Here you have the chance to witness how much this association has grown: We present you a report from our successful event EPSA Annual Reception that took place in the European Parliament in Brussels, an interview with EAHP (European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy) President, Professor Bart Rombaut and with the EPSA President from 1998/1999 Imanol Monteagudo.

We also present you good quality articles from our members and the events, activities or projects developed by them.

I want to finish by wishing the next EPSA Generations a fruitful and successful work! Take care of this association, since EPSA is able to provide you moments that you will never forget in life!

See you in the professionals' world!



Yours in EPSA,

**Mariana Fróis**

EPSA Vice President of Public Relations 2010/2011

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# Presidential Words

Dear EPSA friends,

It is my great honour to introduce you to the third and last edition of the EPSA Newsletter of the mandate of 2010/2011. Many things have happened since the last edition was published and all of them reflect the development of the association this year and the important role EPSA continuously claims – both through our fellow students and through our professional partners.

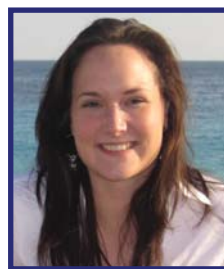
The last EPSA event was the Annual Reception, which was held in the European Parliament in Brussels 28<sup>th</sup> of February. The topic, “The Pharmacist of tomorrow - developing new roles to meet professional challenges”, the speakers representing the wide range of fields in pharmacy, participating in a roundtable on the topic, the Commission representative presenting the ongoing revision of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications directive and finally, the presentations of two very successful EPSA projects (Training Project and Individual Mobility Project) created an event that attracted numeral students and professionals. In the coming pages you can read more about this highly successful event that proved that EPSA has an important place in European Pharmacy. We believe that our students deserve to be heard – this shows that it is absolutely possible!

The newly created Educational Board in EPSA has been really showing results these months. New projects have been created and the already existing projects have been growing. As mentioned, the IMP and the Training Project are growing successfully, increasing their importance every day. Another important step forward is the release of the first project from the newly created Public Health and Social Services department, the oBIGSity Campaign. By providing informational and promotional material, in addition to a suggestion on how to carry it out adaptable to each association’s possibilities and conditions, a great

interest from our member associations were shown and several associations carried out this campaign in their countries. The interest and participation in this project clearly shows that our members care about the health of the people in their communities and that they are willing to work to improve it. It is absolutely fantastic to see the involvement of Pharmacy students around Europe.

The presence of EPSA representatives at the many events in the Pharmaceutical field this year should be highlighted. This is exactly the way to understand what is going on in the world of Pharmacy so we can bring on this knowledge to our members and most importantly, this might be best way to communicate what our members have to say to the professional pharmacy organisations.

As we are now approaching the end of this team’s mandate, I would like to finish my last Presidential words by congratulating my Team. Throughout the year the team has shown endurance, motivation, creativity, knowledge and fellowship like I have never seen before in a team. I feel honoured to have worked with such great people! The coming team has a great starting point to begin from and also a huge challenge because of the high level that has been reached this year. I will be happy to be there as Immediate Past President doing my best to enable a smooth start for the next team, and I am anxious to see where EPSA will be in another year. I hope and believe that EPSA will continue to create great things – for our members.



Yours in EPSA,

**Anette Aaland Krokaas**  
EPSA President 2010/2011  
[president@epsa-online.org](mailto:president@epsa-online.org)

Improving Health



Boosting Vitality

**Science For A Better Life**



You could play with your kids for hours on end. But all that romping and running around, while wonderful if you're healthy, can otherwise be a real strain on your energy and nerves. Even minor ailments can quickly spoil the fun.

Thanks to Bayer, it doesn't have to be that way. Bayer offers products that help you heal quickly and reliably.

With drugs like Aspirin<sup>®</sup>, Rennie<sup>®</sup> or Bepanthen<sup>®</sup>, or the vitamin complex Supradyn<sup>®</sup>, Bayer is improving the quality of people's lives. Both at work and at play. [www.bayer.com](http://www.bayer.com)



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# EPSA Annual Reception 2011

## European Parliament - Brussels, Belgium

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2011 the EPSA Annual Reception, the 3<sup>rd</sup> EPSA event of the year, took place at the room Loyola de Palacio in the European Parliament in Brussels.



During this event, the EPSA team had the opportunity to present the development during their mandate to professional associations, stakeholders, other students' associations and, of course, to our members - European pharmacy students.

This session was hosted by the MEP (Member of European Parliament) Oana Antonescu from Romania. Among the attendees were representatives of GIRP (European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers), AESGP (European Self-Medication Industry), ESCP (European Society of Clinical Pharmacy), EPHA (European Public Health Alliance), Ordre des Pharmaciens (French National Association of Pharmacists), GSK (GlaxoSmithKline), CPME (Standing Committee of European Doctors), Pfizer, Listening Pharma, German Pharmaceutical Industry Association (BPI) and Ernst & Young. Over 80 people attended EPSA Annual Reception in total.

The session started with opening words from the EPSA President, Anette Aaland Krokaas, and the MEP, Oana Antonescu, followed by the presentation of two

successful EPSA Projects: Individual Mobility Project (IMP) and Training Project.

Mr. Jürgen Tiedje, from the Directorate General (DG) Internal Market of the European Commission, gave a presentation on the revision of the Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications and encouraged EPSA to submit a response to the consultation.

Mr. Tiedje elaborated on the possible automatic recognition of diplomas between EU countries and stated that the direction now is towards a competency-based harmonisation instead of a harmonisation that is based on the length of the curricula. Mr Jürgen Tiedje, however, pointed out that defining those competencies is very challenging.



The second part of the reception consisted of a panel discussion between Roberto Frontini from EAHP (European Association of Hospital Pharmacists), John Chave from PGEU (Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union), Bart Rombaut from EAFP (European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy), Kristina De Turck from EIPG (European Industrial Pharmacists Group) and João Duarte, EPSA Vice President of Education, representing the EPSA Members. The session was chaired by Sanziana Marcu-Lapadat, EPSA Vice President of External Affairs.

Mr Frontini highlighted the importance of a high level of communication between pharmacists and doctors and the importance of individualized therapies on the definition of future roles in a hospital asset. Mr Rombaut from EAFP pointed out that the pharmaceutical education is facing many challenges, such as fast evolution of the pharmaceutical profession, the Bologna Process and the revision of directives on the education.

John Chave from PGEU brought up why pharmacy professionals might have an increasingly important role in the future, especially because of the increasing chronic diseases among the population, the bigger responsibility of the patients for their own health and the impact of adverse effects.



The Reception ended with some final conclusions from the EPSA President and the hosting MEP Oana Antonescu who brought up her optimistic view on the future of the pharmacy professionals and the importance of students' activities.

A cocktail took place after the session, where students had the opportunity to meet and brainstorm with professionals in one of the most important places within Europe: the European Parliament!



Kristina De Turck from EIPG highlighted that for the industrial pharmacy also other non-pharmaceutical competencies are needed, and pointed out that in the industry pharmacists also face competition from professionals with other diplomas. Finally, João Duarte from EPSA presented the opinion of the students, underlining the increasing importance of determining professional competencies and taking new learning methodologies into use. João Duarte also brought up the importance of mobility of students and young graduates.

Ms Siska Desplenter, Vice President of the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP), highlighted the need of trainings in communication in pharmacy education in order to ensure good interactions between pharmacists, doctors and patients.

**Katja-Emilia Lillsunde**  
EPSA Secretary General

# 5<sup>th</sup> EPSA Executive Meeting

## 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> February – Brussels, Belgium

Looking ahead, we no longer see the wide horizon of infinite possibilities and potential new projects that appeared in front of our eyes in the beginning of the mandate. It has narrowed down as the months passed and we are currently looking at our work in progress, the result of our struggle and dedication, which we seek to finalize. This is when we realize that, sadly, we are now playing the final act... the curtain will soon fall!



Looking behind, we see that during this mandate bold ideas have been shaped to become real projects, enthusiastic people have turned their thoughts into actions. So, it is time now to draw the line and do the math: will our balance be positive?

Close your eyes, take a deep breath, then click your heels together three times and here you are: Brussels, 5<sup>th</sup> EPSA Executive Meeting!

All the members of the Executive were present for the meeting as well as other members of the team including Bruno Marques, Chairperson of the 34<sup>th</sup> EPSA Annual Congress (Lisbon, Portugal) who was there to provide us with the latest information regarding the event we have all been day-dreaming about. A special guest was there to observe the development of the EM: Daniela Kolberg, LS of BPhD, Germany.

Speaking of special guests, I gladly inform you about the participation of a representative from EMSA. On this occasion, EPSA and EMSA signed a Declaration of Cooperation, where both associations commit to establish a solid collaboration for the future. This document was signed by Sanziana Marcu-Lapadat, EPSA Vice President of External Affairs and Luís Machado, EMSA Permanent Officer in Brussels, at the time being, and it aims to empower our associations and strengthen our positions in the healthcare sector. As this moment represents a landmark in the history of our association, I invite you to watch it online in the EPSA Blog.

However, this moment was not the only reason that made the team members experience a thrilling sensation. The fact that the Annual Reception in the European Parliament was only 48 hours away gave us all chills down our spines. But, emotions were put aside when team reports for this meeting were discussed. All members of the team had the opportunity to present their latest work, receive feedback and share their strategy for the final month and a half of the mandate.

The team was nicely surprised when Jurij and Bart gave a presentation of the new project they had been developing. Its main idea was very appealing to each and every one of us because it reflects the EPSA motto: "Bringing pharmacy, students, knowledge together". Did I manage to raise your curiosity? So, dear EPSAholics, you will soon find out more about the... EPSA Voyage!

To conclude with, ladies and gentlemen, if you will please follow me closely as we are now almost at the end of the tour... Take a deep breath, close your eyes, then click your heels together three times and I shall meet you all in Lisbon!

**Raluca Negricea**  
EPSA Parliamentarian Council Member

# IFISO Spring Meeting 2011

## 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – Kraków, Poland

Between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 took place in Kraków, Poland, the IFISO (Informal Forum of International Students' Organizations) Spring Meeting 2011 organised by AEGEE (European Students' Forum) and attended by fifteen other international students' associations, including EPSA.



IFISO is a platform of communication and network between most of the International Students NGO's worldwide gathering more than 25 member associations. This forum provides a great opportunity to brainstorm with other students associations, share experiences and create common projects and activities. Besides that, IFISO is also the platform for LSS, Leadership Summerschool, a training event that has been gathering more and more enthusiasts.

During this meeting were shared best practices regarding Institutional Fundraising (Grants) or Corporate Fundraising (Sponsors). Some decisions were also reached regarding IFISO internal structure, the collaboration regarding Training Project between the different organisations and regarding IFISO official logo. One topic that was particularly interesting to discuss was "IFISO Local Cooperation". Indeed, most of IFISO members are represented in the same European cities as Paris, London, Ljubljana or Napoli.

We believe that would be beneficial to our members to get the contacts from other IFISO members' local branches and organise together workshops, parties or any other events. Cooperation on local level would give credibility to IFISO and opportunities to our members!

A report from Leadership Summer School was also presented by the LSS Coordination Team (CT) represented by Giulio Petti to IFISO Members.

During this event were also presented to IFISO Members two successful projects: Study Portals (an European database of not only Masters, Bachelors and PhD programs, but also Scholarships and Short Courses) and Right to Research Coalition (a project that defends the right to have open access to research articles with whom EPSA is currently partnering).



In the end of long days of work, IFISO Members also had the opportunity to experience an amazing social programme of parties and truly enjoyable sightseeing game that took place in the streets of Kraków.

The next IFISO Meeting will take place in October and will be organised by IAAS (International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences).

**Mariana Fróis**  
EPSA Vice President of Public Relations

# EPSA present in DIA Euromeeeting

## 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – Geneve, Switzerland

Between the 28<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> of March, six members of the EPSA Team represented EPSA at the DIA (Drug Information Association) EuroMeeting, DIA's largest annual European meeting and one of the largest Pharmaceutical events. This year the DIA Euromeeeting took place in Geneva, beautifully located on the banks of Lake Geneva and at the foot of the Alps.



The EuroMeeting 2011 brought together more than 3000 professionals from over 50 countries, offering the opportunity of networking with Pharmacy professionals from around the world in the biopharmaceutical industry, clinical research, regulatory agencies, health ministries, patients' organisations and universities.

This year was the second edition of the EuroMeeting when DIA offered a distinct chapter specially prepared for students, the Student Session. More than 60 Pharmacy students from all over Europe attended the DIA EuroMeeting being at the heart of places where chances emerge and experiencing the wide range of unique possibilities offered to them by this event: attending the lectures, viewing the exhibition hall, participating in the student sessions and networking with professionals from different fields of the Pharmacy profession.

EPSA is cooperating with DIA in the organization and promotion of the Student Session.

Before the start of the conference, the students could choose to sign up for an additional Student Pre-Conference Tutorial on Clinical Research or a career opportunity for students in life science disciplines. It is the first time this joint initiative of EPSA and DIA was organized and we hope to build up on this, in future events.

The opening of the DIA EuroMeeting for the present students was introduced by the Student Welcome Reception, where the students were warmly welcomed by the DIA President and DIA Past President. On this occasion, Ms. Brigitte Franke-Bray, the European Director of DIA acknowledged the presence of EPSA and expressed her delight that she has been invited to join the EPSA Board of Trustees 2011-2014, invitation which she gladly accepted. During this reception, the students met for the first time their colleagues in the EuroMeeting. Following the friendly atmosphere we all headed to enjoy a typically Geneva delight – Swiss cheese fondue on the lake.



Monday morning was entirely dedicated to the students' program, composed of 'Present with Confidence Workshop' and 'Curriculum Vitae Workshop' where the students received useful tips and advice on how

to increase the confidence and how to impact the audience when giving a public presentation and how to write a winning CV.



The focus point was the DIA Student Chapter Session, organized in partnership with EPSA and IFMSA, for which two EPSA Team members were co-chairs: João Duarte, EPSA Vice President of Education and myself. This informal networking and information session was intended to familiarize students with the multitude of professional disciplines in the pharmaceutical world, in an open and relaxed format. A group of experienced professionals from a range of pharmaceutical backgrounds led small groups of students in discussions around the room.

The sessions were followed by the Student Networking Lunch, a great chance to discuss career pathways in various fields with one another as well as to get to know each other better.



One possibility to attend the EuroMeeting as a student, besides applying for the Student Fellowship or paying

the reduced students' fee, is to submit a scientific poster with results of a research made during your studies and to be selected as one of the 20 fully supported poster presenters, and maybe even win one of the prizes.

During the rest of the conference days the students experienced, some for the first time, the involvement in a professional event. They attended one of the permanently parallel running presentations on 16 different themes with speakers from the European Medicines Agency, the European Commission, the FDA and other regulatory agencies from European countries and other regions of the world. The exhibition floor is one of the largest in Europe. With more than 200 exhibitors it provides the ideal environment for networking, which is the key pillar of the EuroMeeting, as well as unique opportunities for the students to get in touch with professionals from their fields of interest in the Pharmaceutical world.

The DIA EuroMeeting certainly offered an inspiring and throughout provocative time in Geneva, it was a mind opening and perspective broadening experience for all the attending students!



Being part of a large-scale professional event as a student is a real boost for the start of your future career. Knowledge gathered, people met, time enjoyed and are just three ways to sum up this exhilarating event!

**Sanziana Marcu-Lapadat**  
 EPSA Vice President of External Affairs

# 16<sup>th</sup> EAHP Annual Congress

## 30<sup>th</sup> March - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 – Vienna, Austria

March is definitely one of the most active months in the EPSA Calendar and the EPSA team has spent it travelling all around Europe to make sure EPSA is well represented in all professional and students' events. On the last days of March we headed to Vienna, Austria, to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> European Association of Hospital Pharmacists Annual Congress. This congress was attended by over 3500 hospital pharmacists and around 25-30 students and its topic was: *"Hospital Pharmacists in a changing world - opportunities and challenges"*.



The quality of this event was outstanding either when considering the quality of the sessions or the organisation itself. The programme began on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> of March with the delightful presence of the Strauss Capelle Orchestra, one of the most famous Orchestras in Vienna, followed by a session about the changing management in Hospital Pharmacies. During the congress, many interesting topics such as Clinical Pharmacy or e-Prescription were given to all attendees. There were around 4 or 5 parallel sessions which allowed participants to choose each session according to their own personal interests. Besides that, many satellite sessions were provided by pharmaceutical companies.

Many pharmaceutical industries were present at the exhibition hall which means great opportunities to network! EPSA had a booth near the stand of EAHP, EJHP (European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy) and ASHP (American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists) and it was visited by several hospital pharmacists: from high representatives of other pharmacy professional associations (EAFP – European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy; EIPG – European Industrial Pharmacy Group; ESCP – European Society of Clinical Pharmacy; etc.), to Austrian students, EPSA and IPSF Alumni and potential new sponsors. It is not possible to predict the huge opportunities that having a booth in all professional associations congresses could provide to our association! Of course, that EPSA Team member flew to Vienna fully-packed with EPSA Material: EPSA Newsletters, EPSA Slim Volumes, IMP Sheets, EPSA Mugs, EPSA Pens and EPSA T-shirts were provided to those that showed interest in our association!



During EAHP Annual Congress, EPSA also had the chance of having a meeting with Viktoria Brucker and Jakob Hollerrester, students of the University of Wien and members of the Studienstvertretung Pharmazie Wien (the local group of students of the Students' Association of the University of Wien). We do believe that our excitement for EPSA was shown in our faces

and they understood all the opportunities, amazing experiences and long last friendship that EPSA can give us. This is a first, but very important step to bring Austria to EPSA Map.

Of course EPSA also had the opportunity to meet with professionals and start possible new partnerships. This network provided by professional association shouldn't be devalored and the visibility of EPSA in this congress was huge! Hopefully the outcomes of such great meeting will be presented to you, pharmacy student, as new IMP placements or new events.



In the Closing Ceremony it was presented to European pharmacists the winner of the EAHP-EPSC Student Science Award. This competition was promoted through EPSA website since October 2010 and also on national and local level by our members. I was the winner of this contest as first author of the paper "Molecular Characterization of CTX-M-type Extended-spectrum  $\beta$ -Lactamases of *Escherichia coli* isolated from a Portuguese University Hospital".



I wrote this article in collaboration with Gabriela Jorge da Silva, Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Biology of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Coimbra, Portugal.



As the congress ended, EPSA Team members had the opportunity to discover a bit more about Austria by sightseeing in Vienna: It is definitely an amazing city with wonderful buildings and clean streets. We also had the opportunity to experience a tasty Austrian schnitzel! How great would it be to have an EPSA Congress in this amazing city! We hope that soon EPSA will have Austrian members! 😊

EPSC wants to thank EAHP for all the kindness, availability and support. It was a great experience for all of us to be present at this congress and we are so proud to be able to take part in this amazing event. We hope that this fruitful collaboration will continue for many years and that soon in time we can have a bigger amount of pharmacy students attending this congress.

Congratulations to EAHP and to Hospital Pharmacists!

**Mariana Fróis**  
EPSC Vice President of Public Relations

# Pinsestevnet

## Gathering Pharmacy Students from Nordic Countries!

You have heard some rumours about some strange event for Nordic pharmacy students? Well... "*Pinse, Pinse, what a hell way to die!*" is sang out loud as the chorus of "The Gory Song", for the ones of you who might happen to know this slightly horrible song. You sure feel quite dead after this week – a lot of learning at day time and long nights. This might remind you of an EPSA-event? Well, it has a few things in common, but yet it's also very different.



### History

Pinsestevnet was arranged for the very first time in 1937 in Oslo, as a gathering of pharmacy students from Norway, Sweden and Denmark. It is named from the Scandinavian word for the religious holiday "Whitsun" – Pinse – and "stevne" meaning gathering, since, as you probably guessed, the first gathering took place during this holiday. The first Pinsestevne was reported to be a huge success, and there was a wish to keep this happening as an annual event. During the war there was a few years' break, but ever since it finished, Pinsestevnet has been an annual happening arranged in one of the Nordic countries. It very soon included Finnish pharmacy students, and in the later years even a few Icelandic have attended. The event has yet not taken place on Iceland.

### Pinsestevnet at a glance

The event lasts from Monday till Friday, and if I should describe it using only three words, it would be: business-visits, singing and beer. These are the main contents during the week, which provides the students new knowledge within the pharmaceutical field of the hosting country, networking – both professional and social, and lots of fun!

The *Pharmacanto*, a small, green book containing a variety of songs from the pharmacy world and quite a few others, in both English and the Nordic languages, has a very central position. It is frequently used both during meals, bus rides and parties, and also to write each other nice greetings in, to look back at when you grow old.

### The social programme

The social programme of Pinsestevnet is quite traditional. There is always a welcoming ceremony to wish both new and old Pinse participants welcome to the event. Then there might be a lecture, before the first evening is spent as a very social get-to-know-each-other-evening, often taking place at a cabin or such. Sauna is almost compulsory.



Like EPSA-events always have a European night, Pinsestevnet always has a Nordic night. You might think that we'll all be dressed the same then, but then

you are wrong. For instance, this year the Swedish gave a tribute to their participants in Eurovision through the years, while the Danish were farmers and cows. The night includes a show from each delegation, and often these can hardly be described in words.

A pub-crawl is also normally a part of the evening programme. Not even other Scandinavians can possibly understand the Norwegian beer prices, so this years' pub-crawl became more of a walk and then a party at the place where the beer was cheapest. (Which still means a price of 5 euros for 0,4 L!).



An own evening called "*Materia*" is dedicated to singing, both as performances and collective singing. Many of the songs sang are of course from the Pharmacanto. During the last night of the event there is a gala, like at an EPISA event. But at Pinsestevnet the aim during the meal is basically that no one should get a bite while the food is still warm – due to singing. At the gala there are also a few speeches, and the people who have attended Pinsestevnet in all the four countries (Norway, Denmark, Finland and Sweden) receive a medal for "full circle". Some people even start their second circle though!

### **The big differences from an EPISA-event**

The maybe biggest difference from an EPISA-event is that you get much closer with ALL the participants during a Pinsestevne. As there are only 40-50 of them all together, you know the name and face of every single participant before the week has come to an end! This is very special, and it creates a very tight bonding and feeling of fellowship. It is not a coincidence that

you see many of the same faces again year after year. As we are a smaller crowd, it's easier to arrange visits to companies and other businesses within the pharmaceutical field. Such visits are an important part of the day-program, and they often include guided tours in addition to lectures.

Another thing worth mentioning is timing. As you all probably know, Nordic people are quite concerned about time. We are "always on time". Even at an event like Pinsestevnet this is almost true! There are hardly any delays at all, and the entire academic program starts sharp (maximum five minutes delay).

As this is a Nordic event, we obviously discuss Nordic matters more than European. Like for instance, Denmark still has a state monopoly of the pharmacies, in Sweden it's recently released, and in Norway this happened in 2001. Another hot topic for discussion is e-prescription. This has existed for several years in Finland and now exists in all the Nordic countries, except from Norway - where it's currently being tested in some pharmacies.

### **This years' Pinsestevne**

This years' Pinsestevne was arranged in its mother city, Oslo. We had presentations from the three different major pharmacy chains in Norway, from The Isotope Laboratory and Photocure ASA, and paid visits to the Norwegian Medicines Agency, Nycomed, the Aas beer brewery, the Coca Cola Company (did you know that Coca Cola was invented by a pharmacist??) and the Pharmaceutical museum. The special thing about this years' Pinsestevne was that no one in the arranging committee had actually attended the event themselves before! Anyways, they managed to pull it off in a very nice manner, and once again the Pinsestevnet was a huge success. We are all already looking forward to next years' in Copenhagen!

**Anne-Marie Vingdal Tessem**  
NoPSA, Norway

# TNT: Training New Trainers

## Big Apples from the Training Tree

*The three days I've spent with the other participants was an amazing experience!*

*EPSA TNT Warsaw was a really good experience. I could develop myself professionally and personally and besides had lots of fun!!!*

*The whole TNT was important for me because every day was a new challenge, a new chance to feel much more connected to the concept of trainings and also to improve my skills in this path!*



These are comments from participants of the third EPSA Training New Trainers event (or more shortly and quite descriptively: "TNT"). The event was held 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> of March in Warsaw, Poland, and led by present and former EPSA Training Coordinators: Inkatuuli Heikkinen and Louise Winnecke Jensen. The aim of the intensive training weekend was to prepare new trainers for EPSA. The program included training sessions from early in the morning to late at night, in other words: plain hard work.

The sessions were about facilitation, presentation skills and different learning styles, among others, in order to provide a toolkit on how to construct and conduct a good training. To make the experience even more

intensive, all participants shared a dorm room together (not unlike the Big Brother house). What resulted was a dynamic, fun and super-efficient weekend - and the Big Apples - a group of fresh-baked trainers named after the Statue of Liberty on the dorm room wall.

For those who are not familiar with the training concept it might be useful to elaborate a bit. Trainings, as opposed to lectures, usually focus on soft skills and are structured very differently. The participants play the main role in reaching the outcomes and the trainer is merely a facilitator. The trainer plans a structured framework around the theory and the actual learning happens through interactive work, such as discussions and exercises.

When you are learning about learning and training about training, you are bound to find out something new about yourself as well. TNT participant Laura Scurtu phrases it like this: *TNT surprised me a lot because everything was so unexpected. I came to Poland with one vision and I left as another Laura full of other thoughts, much more ambitious and self-confident.*

Finally, a comment from TNT trainer Louise Winnecke Jensen: *I am really looking forward to seeing the Big Apples in action, supporting the development of the EPSA training project in near future. Luckily we will see many of the new trainers in the Annual Congress in Lisbon, and I am sure they will manage the challenge!*

Time to harvest the fruit.

**Tiia Metiäinen**  
EPSA Trainer

# IMP Coordinator of the Year

Diana Mereu, Romania

The IMP Board made their decision and chose the IMP Coordinator of the Year. Diana Mereu follows Jaroslaw in the title and she is here to present herself and this experience briefly to you:



## 1. How did you become National IMP Coordinator?

IMP is the best programme that promotes employment and mobility among students and young graduates and boosts their working performances by offering them opportunities that satisfy not only their educational requirements, but also those of the EU regarding continuous learning. For me, Individual Mobility Project started on an August day, when going through the pages of EPSA website I found a world in which real career opportunities are carried to students, a world of which I haven't heard of before, but was certainly the kind of place I knew that would fit me best. And so... the journey began!

## 2. What motivated you to work?

The reason for my motivation is simple: creating possibilities for those that are less fortunate or lack the methods that would help them in finding those opportunities on their own by raising intercultural awareness and foster lifelong educational process as

a natural path. Not long ago I was one of them and I know for sure that the fear of the unknown stops them from choosing their way, that's why they need encouragement and support from early steps.

## 3. What do you find as being the most important role of a National IMP Coordinator?

Being a National IMP Coordinator defines itself as being able to promote and find potential partners and suitable candidates on National level, also interacting and establishing good-working relations with the Local IMP Coordinators. But, being capable of creating a link between applicants and pharmaceutical world is what I find as the most important role of an IMP Coordinator. I truly stand for encouraging mobility of the youth and therefore their development as individuals and as future employees. In order to achieve that, it is also essential to make students aware of the importance of traineeships and collaboration with a non-political, independent students' association such as EPSA.

## 4. What are your future plans regarding IMP?

I believe that "real-job" environment should be a place easy to enter for students and recent graduates that lack professional training, but who have gained the knowledge and "soft" skills. Because of this and because of the continuous changes that employment status goes through, I strongly believe that mobility projects such as IMP are the answer in order to decrease youth unemployment and foster lifelong learning process. Considering this fact, I find myself in a position that can facilitate mobility of students beyond the borders of their own countries. Therefore, I shall continue putting all the time and effort in this project and who knows: How does a future IMP placement in Romania sound like? :)

Interviewed by **Iva Angelova**  
EPSA Central IMP Coordinator

# EPSA Favourite Liaison Secretary

Daniela Kolberg, Germany

In every Newsletter published during EPSA Annual Congress the EPSA Executive appoints its Favourite LS. The goal is simple: To highlight the work done throughout the year and to be an example to other Liaison Secretaries. Our Favourite LS is Daniela Kolberg from Germany. Daniela is a third year student from the University of Würzburg and represents the Bundesverband der Pharmaziestudierenden in Deutschland (BPhD)!



## 1. Why did you become Liaison Secretary and how did that happen?

I've always been a little globetrotter, interested in international foreign cultures and countries. I travelled a lot around Europe with my family, I have been one year abroad after school and speak four languages. Before I became LS and more involved in BPhD's work, I was IPSF LEO (Local Exchange Officer) at my faculty in Würzburg. But soon I realized that I wanted to get more in touch with international affairs, without losing the pharmaceutical touch.

When last BPhD President told me that EPSA LS position would become vacant soon, I was skeptical because I knew that there wasn't much action going

on within EPSA in Germany in comparison with IPSF, so I thought that working with EPSA would be too strenuous and less fun for me. Luckily I kept thinking and finally decided to run for it at the congress in May. And here I am!

## 2. Do you believe that German students are now more aware of EPSA?

I definitely think so because I am "spamming" all our e-groups with news about EPSA events, information, questionnaires and others. During past years we were more related to IPSF, people didn't know EPSA that much. However, the interest in what I'm doing and in EPSA is increasing among them and what more appreciation can one get?! Awareness per se will improve after the idea of TWINning infects more local faculties and we can have our first IMP placement. Because, in my opinion, mobility is the easiest way we can get German students into EPSA.

## 3. How visible is EPSA within BPhD?

The fact that four out of five people of the German delegation in Autumn Assembly in Helsinki are now members of BPhD's Executive is already speaking for itself. Additionally, I'm very glad that our President is very open to international affairs and the experience I can get from EPSA.

Due to EPSA's influence we were able to establish "Monthly Updates" and "Online Meetings" in our basic Executive work. The other way round, we are starting now a "Mentor Programme" to improve communication between the base (local faculties) and the Executive, which EPSA is thinking about transferring it on their own work (Tutor Project). I think both associations are visible in each other and in my opinion, this is one of the main aims of EPSA: getting different countries together with their ideas, interests, manners of working and opinions and create thereof a fruitful outcome.

#### 4. Which task have you found more challenging during this year of mandate?

- Via email it is often difficult to separate the different topics and find out their priorities. So filtering what is basic work and what is additional work, was tough.
- Application period for AA and AC: It was difficult for me to manage the information, the deadlines, the people and their questions and the quantity of mails and documents. ;)
- Starting IMP: still difficult, still challenging... I am also NIMP – National IMP Coordinator.

#### 5. It is EPSA's aim to keep developing and to please our members. How do you believe that our association could improve?

The key to keep EPSA and its spirit alive are the LSS! We have to put more effort in encouraging and guiding them: Strengthen the base of EPSA which are the national and local EPSA representatives.

Another very important thing is to make EPSA more accessible to the basic student. We should find means to provide them with helpful information concerning Europe: (e.g. list of the masters in pharmacy). Another idea: more input on mobility, both professional and logistical one, and help EPSA members organizing little international events with their neighboring countries, bringing different parts of Europe more together.

EPSA should also collect information and make short articles or even Statements of Opinion on different important topics related to European pharmacy.

I always understood EPSA to be and to provide a database related to nearly everything that is pharmacy studies, becoming a professional and taking first steps into a career – that is important and interesting to every single EPSA member, active or inactive. Let's see if we will focus more on that in the future!

#### 5. What is your message to the future EPSA Liaison Secretaries?

##### **DARE**

to ASK everyone and everything.  
to SPEAK frankly.  
to CRITICIZE.  
to COMMUNICATE the things you like and dislike.  
to LIAISE also lateral with other LSs and upwards to EPSA Team (via skype!)  
to BRING your ideas and suggestions.  
to IMPROVE both your national work and EPSA's.

##### **DO** it.

##### **BE**

ACTIVE in every way you can.  
the CONNECTION between your country and Europe.  
HEARD as the voice of your country's experience within pharmacy.

**EPSA** – it's as important as it's FUN!

#### **"Scale" from 1-10**

**Experience:** 10

**Fun:** 9 (to leave space upwards... there will be even more, I'm sure!)

**Time consuming:** 6.5

**Headache:** sometimes I'm with 6 - I'm a little perfectionist! ;)

**Responsibility:** 8

Interviewed by **Mariana Fróis**  
EPSA Vice President of Public Relations

# World Health Day 2011: Why is Antimicrobial Resistance a global concern?

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is the theme of the World Health Day 2011. This article aims to present in some extension the importance for the different stakeholders: scientists, pharmacists, governments and patients regarding the issue of AMR. WHO takes action in order to create awareness and fight the problem and we as pharmacists are part of this process.



Starting from the patients, the major concern is that an extensive and unreasonable use of antibiotics can result into resistance even in microbes that could have been treated easily, within a reasonable time. The result is really negative for the patient, who sometimes can come up with months of antibiotic treatment as the different substances or dosage schemes cannot support the fast treatment of the patient. Obviously, effectiveness of the treatment matters for the patient which affects directly the health into the society he/she lives in.

Regarding pharmacists, the issue of resistance has two major points to consider with the first being the prevention and the second being the control and advice. As prevention, the pharmacist cannot replace the doctor's diagnosis; however pharmacists can use their expertise to promote a culture of not using

extensively antibiotics without purpose. It is a fact that in some EU countries, patients visit first the pharmacist for advice rather than the doctor and therefore the preventive role can start from the pharmacy in connection with the doctors. Moreover, pharmacists can help control the unreasonable use of antibiotics, as distributors of drugs. Most commonly, patients that are under antibiotics for long time question why this happens and want some advice, with the pharmacists being the receivers of that kind of questions. The most important is pharmacists are the point of contact with the patient and can be important players for fighting drug resistance.

Moving forward at the point of scientists, things become really complicated. This is because, after the drug is licensed in the market, professionals have the first say rather than scientists. A shift towards better monitoring can be useful and involve scientists extensively in the process. However, the great concern is that in the past decade resistance in antibiotics could be identified in not so complex microbe infections, while nowadays diseases such as HIV infections expect the MRSA. Drug categories such as Cephalosporines or Chinolones are already in the fourth generation of development, while the concern is that pharmaceutical technology still is lacking in formulating drugs for oral use in low cost.

Finally, governments are important players in the drug market and drug resistance is detrimental in terms of pharmaco-economics. Great expenditure for drugs that progressively seem to be inefficient, in connection with the extension of care time creates serious problems as many health systems around Europe suffer at the point of funding (the old issue of limited funded and infinite demand). Moreover, the most important problem is that public health is at stake, which directly affects the individuals and in greater extend society.

For more information visit the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2011/en/index.html>

# Pharmacovigilance:

## Keep your eyes open and your medicines safe!

As you know, Pharmacovigilance is the EPSA Annual Topic 2010/2011. One of the major initiatives globally to improve public health through enhancing medications safety was the creation of the pharmacovigilance legislature.



Pharmacovigilance is actually dealing with:

- Collecting and managing data on the safety of medicines
- Looking at the data to detect 'signals' (any new or changing safety issue)
- Evaluating the data and making decisions with regard to safety issues
- Acting to protect public health (including regulatory action)
- Communicating with stakeholders
- Audit, both of the outcomes of action taken and of the key processes involved.

The process of data collection, in general terms, targets patients, pharmacists, doctors and all those involved in the clinical practice and of course pharmaceutical companies.

When moving a step ahead to a more complex field of biopharmaceuticals, a different framework of pharmacovigilance is applied. The limited predictability of

preclinical to clinical data and the known limitations of randomized controlled trials results in limited knowledge of the safety profile of biopharmaceuticals at the point of their approval, underlining the need for pharmacovigilance. Due to their specific characteristics, pharmacovigilance activities required for biopharmaceuticals might differ from those required for small molecules. The situation becomes more complex as the majority of those drugs are being used to cure people, who suffer from severe diseases or combination of them.

Proactive risk management has been implemented in the EU by the obligatory submission of an EU risk management plan (EU-RMP). In this, the (potential) risks should be described and pharmacovigilance activities proposed. Pharmacovigilance activities can be either routine or additional (post-authorization safety studies [PASS]) activities. During safety assessment, stakeholders are encouraged to use knowledge obtained with biopharmaceuticals with a comparable pharmacology. PASS of biopharmaceuticals with a comparable pharmacology may therefore be used to complement each other.

The idea of pharmacovigilance requires also detailed information about any specific change made in the physical nature of these drugs. Every change in the drug content or form should be recorder. In addition, monitoring of the patient, especially at hospitals is required, so that potential adverse effects can be identified and recorder. For the above mentioned processes effective information systems and smart databases are required.

It becomes clear that pharmacovigilance is an inseparable part of the clinical practice and drug manufacturing. What matters the most is the patient and the improvement of public health.

**Giorgios Vasilopoulos**  
EPSA Science Coordinator

# EPSA fights against oBIGsity

## Eating Healthy Keeps You Well-Thy

As spring approaches each of us think of change. And because changes start from us and with us, EPSA decided to organize a campaign against obesity. Start such a project requires knowing what obesity is: medical condition in which the excess body fat has accumulated to the extent that it may have an adverse effect on health, reducing life expectancy and increasing health problems.



Statistics show that 300 thousand adults and 22 thousand children (14 thousand only in Europe) in the world are considered obese. Started as a “virtual” project in January 2011, oBIGsity started growing due to the necessity of approaching this subject as well as due to the students’ request. Well promoted using technology and live promotions within universities, this campaign is now officially ranked as an EPSA project.

The aim of this project is to aware the population of the dangers and consequences of this disease not only at a health level but also a social one. This was very well pointed out by the students who organized the campaign. They joined hands into promoting and presenting the idea of a healthier lifestyle.

Whether set up in the campus (MPSA – Maltese Pharmaceutical Students’ Association), near

the university’s cafeteria (SSSFD – Slovenian Pharmaceutical Students’ Association) or in 3 different universities (NoPSA – (Norwegian Pharmaceutical Students’ Association), the booth for the campaign was a key-player. The associations gave fliers, fruits, sold sandwiches and smoothies at a low price and most importantly shared valuable information to the curious students. Since the campaign’s aim was not only to inform, but also to prevent, the organizers also held a short presentation about this disease during their classes.

The associations were also supplied with questionnaires so that they could have an overview of how students take care of their own health. In addition, they were offered examples of diets to follow to remove those extra kilos.



The feedback received from the students was very good and the participants were pleased with the campaign and its organization. Further more, I would like to congratulate MPSA, SSSFD and NoPSA as they were the first to implement the campaign and wish good luck to the rest of the associations in promoting the slogan “eating healthy keeps you well-thy”!

**Cristina Parau**  
EPSA Social Services and Public Health Coordinator

# Insight on authority work: Traineeship at EU agency!

If you are interested in working as an authority, a good option might be to take a look at traineeships in European Commission agencies! Most of the agencies are independent entities that release scientific advice and opinions on which European Commission base the new laws. Each agency is obliged to receive trainees and they have open calls throughout the year. In January and July-August, it is also possible to apply for traineeships in DGs (Directorate General) that are the executive agencies in European Union administration. As pharmacists are mostly qualified in science, one can apply scientific traineeships in Joint Research Centres in the fields such as life sciences, biotechnology, nanotechnology, environment and health. The open placements you can find through the website of European Commission ([ec.europa.eu](http://ec.europa.eu)).

**EMA is European Medicine Agency**, located in London, and it delivers the central marketing authorisation, serves as a platform for national agencies for information sharing, gives scientific advice on many issues regarding medicinal products and their use. EMA is also the leading institution in terms of Pharmacovigilance. EMA traineeship call is open once in a year until 15.6.



**ECHA stands for European Chemical Agency** and it deals with the safety of chemical substances. ECHA traineeships require a more special knowledge for example on REACH or other chemical policies. ECHA is located in Helsinki, Finland. If you are specialised in toxicology or similar area, this might be your choice!



**ECDC is European Centre of Disease Prevention** and Control that is located close to one of the best medical universities in the world, Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. ECDC's mission is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases meaning their research focus on bacteria, viruses and medicines used on diseases caused by them. ECDC Traineeship calls are open in January and April. ECDC also run a Training Programme for public health professionals on Intervention Epidemiology.

**EMCDDA is European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction** is located in Lisbon, Portugal. The agency monitors and informs about bioactive substance abuse in Europe. This traineeship is interesting for final year students or recent graduates.

**EFSA is European Food Safety Agency** in Parma, Italy offer traineeships that are relevant when taking into account that EFSA's field cover food supplements, bioactive substances in food (functional food and health claims) and additives (some of them same than what are used in drugs or cosmetics). EFSA traineeships calls are open once a year, in December, and the traineeship is 6-12 months long.



**Inkatuuli Heikinen**  
EPISA Training Coordinator

# Interview with Professor Bart Rombaut

## EAFP President

Professor Bart Rombaut is the President of EAFP (European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy), the representative body of the higher education in pharmacy profession within Europe. EAFP was founded in 1992 and since then has worked towards the goal of increasing cooperation and collaboration between European Faculties of Pharmacy.



On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, in the light of apparent contradictions between the postulates contained in the EC Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications, EAFP has reinforced its position that any liable pharmacist should undergo a training in a Higher Education Institution (HEI) of at least 5 years and this degree course should at least include a full-time traineeship period of at least 6 months in Community Pharmacy or Hospital Pharmacy under the supervision of a university.

EPFA Board of Trustees since 2005, Bart Rombaut was prompt in accepting an interview from EPFA:

### **1. In June 2011, EAFP will organise its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and presents very attractive fees for students. Why would you recommend our members to attend this event?**

The Annual Conference of EAFP is in June 23-25 in Lisbon. The theme of the Conference is “New Roles for Pharmacy and Pharmacists in Europe: a Challenge for Education in Pharmacy”. More information can be found on the EAFP website ([www.eafponline.org](http://www.eafponline.org)) and the conference website ([www.eafp.org.pt](http://www.eafp.org.pt)).

The pharmacy profession has been changed drastically during the last few years and I think it will change even more in the near future. New Pharmacy Services have been introduced in the pharmacies. Moreover new medicines (think on biotech medicines) and medical devices came on the market.

Our Annual Conference will focus on how the Schools of Pharmacy in Europe should react on these changes. New courses or topics should be introduced in the curriculum (social pharmacy, pharmaceutical care, but also communication and pharmaceutical biotechnology). As some of these courses can not be properly taught by traditional educational methods, also new methods have been introduced or shall be introduced (problem-based learning, communication, but also gaming).

Having a conference with this theme is a challenge, not only for academics, but also for our students. Most of the new educational methods require more interaction between professors and students, this is really exciting. Students should attend our conference!

### **2. What is the “Pharmine Consortium” and how can this project benefit European pharmacy students?**

The “Pharmine Consortium” is assembling all stakeholders in Pharmacy : (i) EAFP is representing the Schools of Pharmacy in Europe; (ii) PGEU is representing the community pharmacists; (iii) EAHP is representing the hospital pharmacists; (iv) EIPG is representing the industrial pharmacists and last but not least (v) EPSA is representing the students in pharmacy. The final goal of the “Pharmine Consortium” is to make pharmacy education and pharmacy as a profession in Europe stronger. The “Pharmine Consortium” has run an European project with the same name (by the way pharmine is the acronym for Pharmacy Education in Europe) with three goals : (i) to identify competences for pharmacists; (ii) what is the status of the EC Directive 2005/36/EC and (iii) what is the influence of the Bologna Declaration on pharmacy education.

Some of the results of this European project can be found on the pharmine website ([www.pharmine.org](http://www.pharmine.org)) or will be published in the near future.

### 3. What is your message to European pharmacy students that seek a future in academia and research?

My answer to this question is straight forward : “go for it !” In most European countries enough positions are available as a researcher or an assistant in the Schools of Pharmacy. Moreover, most Schools of Pharmacy are looking for competent professors. You should be aware that we are living in a very thrilling decade. As explained in my answer to the first question, new courses and new educational methods are or will be introduced in the curriculum of pharmacy students. It is not always easy to find competent teachers for these new topics. So, the time is right to study these new topics and your future will be bright.

Interviewed by **Sanziana Marcu-Lapadat**  
EPSA Vice President of External Affairs

## ESN Flagship Project: PRIME Problems of Recognition In Making Erasmus

One of the biggest challenges that have been faced by European pharmacy students that want to study abroad and develop their knowledge, personal relationships and CV is the difficulty on having this lifetime experience recognised.



PRIME, Problems of Recognition In Making Erasmus is a project by Erasmus Student Network, one of the biggest students organization in Europe. It is a complex

qualitative and quantitative research which aim is to point out the examples of existing obstacles to student mobility and to provide suggestions for improvements in order to facilitate student exchange in Europe.

In 2009 PRIME Report 100 higher education institutions from 24 countries and nearly 2 400 former exchange students were surveyed. PRIME 2010 foresees a three-level research among National Agencies, Higher Education Institutions and students to obtain a precise overview and to identify problem sources, best practices and success stories.

Due to the relevance of this project EPSA will actively collaborate with ESN promoting this project to our students.

# StudyPortals: The European Study Choice Platform

StudyPortals started originally as a portal of Master's Courses in Europe – it aimed to create a platform where all Master's Courses could be easily found and compared by students. Today, 4 years after, this private enterprise publishes also Bachelors, PhDs, Scholarships and Short Courses. The current StudyPortals team consists of 20 people and its operational centre is Eindhoven, The Netherlands.



StudyPortals cooperates with 900 universities in Europe, the European Commission and many national institutes such as the DAAD and Fundación Universidad.es. A collaboration with EPSA is also now under discussion and that is the reason why we ask Joran van Aart, StudyPortals Project Manager, some questions on behalf of European pharmacy students:

## **1. How did the idea of creating this platform come up and how did this project begin?**

Back then we were still students, active in the international student association ESTIEM (Industrial Engineering and Management). All over Europe, the Bologna process with its Bachelor-Master system

was introduced, with thousands of new opportunities to study abroad. However, information was at best available on national study choice websites, but nothing to compare across the borders. It was like having the internet, without Google. That is when we created [www.mastersportal.eu](http://www.mastersportal.eu). Now, we have a set of five portals and we are the biggest study choice platform in Europe.

## **2. What are the main advantages of using StudyPortals and why would you recommend it to EPSA's students?**

First, a study choice website is only of use if you can really find and compare all courses out there. So we spent the last four years growing our websites and we now offer over 20,000 courses. This makes our websites very valuable and popular amongst students: we have 1.4 million visits every month (almost 50,000 per day)!

Second, when you find your dream study abroad, you of course have to finance this. On [www.scholarshipportal.eu](http://www.scholarshipportal.eu) you can find any scholarship to study abroad in Europe! Did you know there is € 15.6 billion (!) available for scholarships every year?

## **3. One of the main problems regarding mobility of pharmacy students in Europe is the recognition of diploma between different countries. How can StudyPortals help students find courses that will be recognised in their country?**

These are very specific, individual problems. Therefore we have a university contact person for every course; you can easily explain your situation and ask for advice. And it also helps that we offer information on the accreditation of all the courses. Finally, our portals motivate heaps of students to study abroad, contributing to the unification of European higher education. A final word of advice? Keep on trying and don't let this hold you back! It is really worth it.

# Memorial to Professor Steve Hudson

## Malta – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011

An academic evening in commemoration of Professor Steve Hudson was held in Malta on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March and amongst many distinguished guests, the EPSA was also invited and represented by Charlene Galea, Liaison Secretary of MPSA (Maltese Pharmaceutical Students' Association).



Among the attendees were many guests from all over Europe: Colleagues from Germany, Scotland and Switzerland described Professor Hudson as a good friend with a keen sense of humour and passionate about clinical pharmacy, its development and patient care. During the event I read a speech from Anette Krokaas, EPSA President, on EPSA's behalf.

Professor Steve Hudson also made an invaluable contribution to EPSA, bringing forward his particular expertise and passion on pharmaceutical care, teaching and research. This was mainly due to his involvement in associations like the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP) and the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (EAFFP) through projects like PHARMINE, and last but not least, through his knowledge and dedication to pharmacy. His willingness to share his knowledge and experience, and his interest in taking part in discussions on current issues, has resulted in a positive impact on several of EPSA's members.

In 1999 together with the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF), EPSA published a statement, entitled "Pharmacy Education - A Vision of the Future". This was a comprehensive collaborative study which pharmacy students worldwide worked on, in order to develop further Pharmacy Education. As a representative of the ESCP, Professor Hudson was the Chairperson for the Special Interest Group on Education.

Hudson believed that the development of pharmacy is in the hands of students. This led to EAFFP - EPSA collaboration to create a joint statement, "Preparing the pharmacist for a future in the delivery of pharmaceutical care". This document included four of Professor Hudson's statements, which highlight his commitment towards the continuing definition of pharmaceutical care.



The evening concluded with pieces of Frank Zappa's music, of whom, Professor Hudson was an avid fan. To conclude, I would like to thank the staff at the Department of Pharmacy in Malta and the executive of the Malta Pharmaceutical Students' Association for helping with the organization of this event and also all the guests who attended this special evening.

**Charlene Galea**  
Liaison Secretary for MPSA, Malta

# Alumni Corner

## Imanol Monteagudo, EPSA President 1998/1999

Imanol Monteagudo was EPSA President in 1998/1999 and Immediate Past President in 1999/2000. Back then, his executive was responsible for the amendment of EPSA's purpose, which has been kept since then as "EPSA shall exist to develop the interests and opinions of European pharmacy students and to encourage contact and co-operation between them".

Currently, Imanol lives in Vitoria, Spain, and owns his own Pharmacy, Farmacia Monteagudo. Eleven years later, EPSA went to Spain and spoke with Imanol about his EPSA experience:



### 1. When and where was your first contact with EPSA?

I studied pharmacy in the University of Navarra, in Pamplona (a city that is well known city for the San Fermín); when I was in my 2nd year of studies, Luis Gracia, who was in 3rd year spoke with me about our local students' association. I didn't know what it was, but offered myself to help. We organized courses and lectures for students, visits to pharmaceutical laboratories and so on. One day, we received an invitation for a FEEF (Spanish Pharmaceutical Student's

Federation) Congress in Madrid and from then on, we learned about EPSA.

Our first contact with EPSA was in Krakow's congress, in 1995, and I remember we were all amazed about the variety of nationalities present there; I learned more about mobility, European Curriculum, etc... and we also discovered Poland, a great country, and of course the famous EPSA parties, including room parties ("work hard, party harder"). I have very good memories from that congress, especially from the people there. This was the place I first met Niamh, Oriol, Hans, Anna, etc. In fact, Luis got involved in EPSA's Executive in charge of EPSA's website. Students from Alcalá and Madrid started developing the great challenge of organizing a Congress - they held it in 1998! I know it was a huge effort for them, but everyone (attendants, organizers, sponsors...) was very much satisfied.

### 2. What was your best moment or event in these fulfilled two years of living the EPSA life?

Niamh suggested me to run for EPSA President in Madrid's congress in 1998, and after reflecting about it for a while, I accepted and, in a quite complicated election (my rival was part of the Reception Committee of next congress in Sweden, which they held in 1999), I was elected. I think that was a great moment for me. We made a very good team with Niamh Fitzgerald as Immediate Past President (the first EPSA Immediate Past President involved in another Executive), Ivana Silva as Vice President, Trude Mellingsaeter, Marko Greiner, Nina Kristoffersen, Bregje Witjes... We were very much involved and put passion in what we made. The last Executive had made a great change in EPSA's TORSO and we had the responsibility to put that into practice: approaching other student (IPSF, EMSA, EDSA, etc) and professional organizations (ESCP, European Council, etc).

The year after my Presidency, when I was Immediate Past President (with Arthur Franken as President), EPSA had its first “Day out of a Congress”. We believed that the students needed to have contact with EPSA even if they couldn’t (as a majority can’t) afford to attend a congress. The European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP) was our partner, and we held it in Berlin, a city that was facing a great process of change. We also had a Summer University together with EDSA (European Dental Students Association), in Croatia.

### **3. Do you believe that your participation in EPSA had an impact on your personal and professional life? Why and how?**

To get involved in EPSA was a very important decision that I took and of course it has influenced my life, both in a personal and a professional way. Personally, having the opportunity of knowing so many people, different ways of thinking about the future, the evolution of their profession (as many people I met were not pharmacy students but dentist, medical students, professors, etc) gives you a bigger perspective. I also visited many places which I still remember with great affect as Jerusalem, Berlin, Zagreb, Ljubljana, Oslo, Utrecht, and so on.

### **4. Almost 11 years after your experience, are you still in contact with those whom you met through EPSA?**

Unluckily I have to say that I would like to maintain contact with more of them, although I have with some which I see from time to time. I also contact through the internet, and through social networks I get news from some more. Anyway, we are all in an age when family and work don’t allow us to travel as much as we would like to, but when I do it, I try to visit and catch up with them.

On an anecdotic way I still have EPSA memories around my house: the only clock in my kitchen is the EPSA one Marko gave us in an EPSA Executive Meeting in Zagreb and I also have an EPSA pin and an IPSF tie! I have more keepsakes than my wife would like, but

they make me smile when I see them. It may sound as a grandfather’s story but it’s pretty real! ☺



### **5. What is your message for the current and future EPSA generations?**

When I see EPSA’s website, I am amazed at the quantity and quality of projects that EPSA develops nowadays! I am “jealous” of the opportunities that students have now. I encourage all of you to use them, to discover how much can you contribute to EPSA and therefore how much you will get back from it.

Interviewed by **Mariana Fróis**  
EPSA Vice President of Public Relations

# IPSF Corner

## Moving On: Improving Pharmacy Education Globally

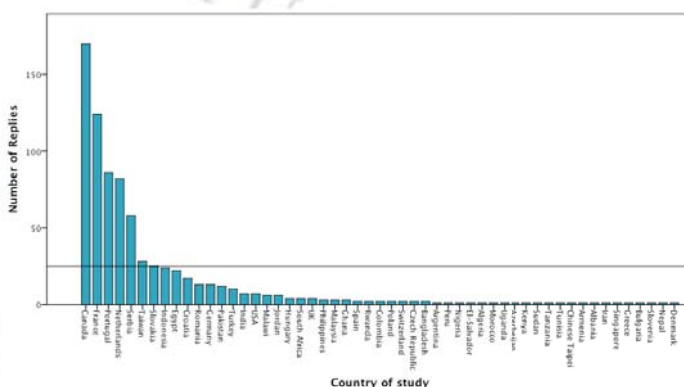
The **Moving On Project** was conceptualized by Prof. Ian Bates and Dr. Catherine Duggan in 2002. Moving On is a part of their efforts in improving the pharmacy education system globally and highlighting the prospects for improvement in the education fields. It was initiated in 2001 at the 47<sup>th</sup> IPSF World Congress in Cairo, Egypt. A series of three projects were pursued: Moving On I (Academic Mobility – 2002/2003); Moving On II (The student learning experience – 2004/ onwards); Moving On III (Migration intentions of pharmacy students – 2004/2005).

“Moving On II” allows world-wide comparisons of the learning experiences of students enrolled in pharmacy programs. It is the first to make international comparisons in the field of pharmacy education and is the largest study of its type to date. Data collected will be used as a tool for education advancement. Students have a voice that can be responsible for the way their future is shaping. Engaging with associations is one way to be heard. This project is focused on comparing quality of curriculum globally, determine students’ aspirations and relay read outs that would aid in bringing about potential changes and open the doors for scope of improvement.

This project aims to determine students’ perceptions of their learning experiences and the quality of their education and also to compare and contrast learning experiences across the world. The final goal is to examine the quality of education from students’ perspective.

Pharmacy students have been completing the Course Experience Questionnaire (CEQ) together with additional items about demographics (age, gender, part-time work, country and university of study), since 2004. Until 2008 10,000 students have shared their

learning experiences and in 2010/2011 767 students have replied to the online survey, so far. After submitting their views on the online survey, the results will be analyzed with a statistical software packaged called SPSS and published in a journal of the field.



**Graph 1** - Distribution of participants globally. The black line represents 25 participants.

IPSF believes that this project in the future could include a program of research surveying more representative groups of students from each pharmacy course in universities around the world in order to provide a more complete and reliable dataset. Besides that, IPSF also aims to have a more representative sample of pharmacy students (comprising a larger amount of students and countries).

Tell us how you feel about your learning experience, do you think it can be different? Contribute by participating in this online questionnaire at: <http://bit.ly/g9KtwO>

For further information please feel free to contact Andreia Bruno (FIP Pharmacy Education Task Force) at [education@fip.org](mailto:education@fip.org) or Francisco Pereira (IPSF Moving On Coordinator) at [movingon.ipsf@gmail.com](mailto:movingon.ipsf@gmail.com).

**Dimple Modi** and **Andreia Bruno**  
 IPSF Chairperson of Pharmacy Education  
 FIP Project Research Coordinator

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Keep yourself updated!



A young boy with dark hair is lying on his back in a field of tall green grass. He is wearing a red and white plaid shirt and light-colored pants. He has a wide, joyful smile, showing his teeth, and his eyes are closed. His arms are raised, and he appears to be holding some grass. The background is a soft-focus field of green grass with some small pink flowers.

# Catch a case of the giggles.

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