European Statements on Hospital Pharmacy and Self-Assessment tool

Implementation of the statements is now moving forward and Gonzalo Marzal Lopez, as you recall, was hired as the project assistant for implementation and has been working with Tony West, the project director and the national ambassadors since the last GA.

A meeting with the ambassadors was held in October 2016 and great progress is being made with both the statements and the self-assessment tool.

We will be launching the project during the Cannes congress and invite all to visit the EAHP booth to learn more. Part of this launch includes the beta version of the new implementation web site which will be the main resource for members seeking to pursue implementation of the various statements and for stakeholders wishing to learn more about our goals.

The self-assessment tool will be available for the GA and workshops are planned to train members on using the tool and to gain input in further work towards statement implementation.

The country reports will also have new questions included related to implementation and you will receive those as soon as possible. The deadline to submit your country reports will be mid-May to allow time to analyse the information received in time for the GA workshops.

We will be suggesting a budget increase for the project to allow for an annual ambassadors meeting and to provide print material support to members for use in promoting implementation.

An exciting bit of news out of the project is the new concept of Statement Implementation Learning Collaboration Centre (SILCC). This programme would allow for members to receive practical learning skills related to implementation and CTF. We will report more during the GA.

Many thanks to the national ambassadors and members for the dedication to this project!

Surveys

The Survey Working Group (Petr Horak – Chairman, Aida Batista and Juraj Sykora) have reviewed the final results of the 2016 survey and a presentation will be given during the Tuesday’ members’ meeting in Cannes.

The 2017 Survey will launch in the fall as planned and we will have the first comparison reports as the same sections of the statements survey in fall 2015 will be repeated this year.

Student internship programme

The last year has seen many students interested in the internship programme, however, the shortage of hospitals willing to take interns has hampered the programme. To address this issue, the EPSA interns will be promoting the programme during the congress at the EAHP booth.

In addition, a new web portal has been created to receive student applications which will ensure that non-eligible individuals cannot access the system and that in general will ensure that that applicants are meeting all programme requirements.
Common Training Framework (CTF)

The three working groups and steering committee for the CTF have nearly completed phase one of the project.

a) Working Group 1 - Competency mapping

WG 1 finalised the draft framework of the competencies and these are now out for consultation via the Delphi process.

b) Working Group 2 - Evidence gathering

WG2 also finalized their research.

c) Working Group 3 – Communications

WG3 was responsible for opening the consultation on 27 February and it is hoped the 2017 General Assembly will give an endorsement to the common training framework. It might be considered that the three initial working groups at this stage would have completed their tasks. A series of new questions and challenges for the project would then require an answer such as:

- How can the framework be made useful across Europe (e.g. in respect to Statement implementation activity, encouraging countries without formal hospital pharmacy education and training programmes to make use of the framework, its use as a workplace training tool, its use for cross-border education and training)?

- How countries that use/meet the framework can develop confidence in the equivalence of each other’s systems (e.g. by some form of accreditation or quality assurance of programmes?)

- How the long-term aspiration of achieving legal recognition for the framework at the EU level can be realised

Joan Peppard will consult with Ian Bates, CTF Steering Committee chair, about the potential closing of the existing working groups and formulation of a new working structure to meet new needs.

It is important for EAHP to decide on how to approach European accreditation for hospital pharmacy education. The board agreed that this topic should be added to the next CTF steering committee meeting agenda.

Falsified Medicines Directive

In short summary, the European Commission continue to actively support EAHP’s rights to participate in EMVO “at no cost”, as set out in Article 31 of FMD Delegated Regulation. A meeting between EAHP and various members of the EMVO secretariat and Board took place on Wednesday 18th January 2017.

The outcome of the meeting had been an eventual agreement by EMVO to reconsider its fee structure at its General Assembly on 28th February. In the meantime, EMVO wished to receive from EAHP a signal that it supported the 10 key principles that underpin EMVO. A very recently received email from EMVO suggested the affiliate membership fee might now be reduced to 500 euros per year.

The Board discussed various strategic options now open to EAHP in response to these developments. It was determined that further negotiations should be conducted with EMVO.
on the terms of potential EAHP involvement and ideally, EMVO would agree to a lower full membership fee. In the interim period, another complaint to the European Ombudsman about the Regulation should not be instigated at this time. It was decided to request a meeting with EMVO to negotiate EAHP’s involvement.

EAHP met with EMVO to negotiate a full membership and we will report on the outcome during the congress members’ meeting.

**Medicines Shortages**

Recent political developments include attention being given to the subject by the current Presidencies of European Union Council of Ministers. The Slovak Presidency has published a discussion paper, placed the item on the agenda of an informal meeting of EU Health Ministers and hosted a one day conference on the subject. The Maltese Presidency were holding an event under the aegis of the Heads of Medicines Agencies. Medicines shortage information sharing mechanisms have been the main discussed areas for potential enhanced cooperation.

In respect to medicines shortages information, it was hoped that a recently published paper representing the consensus views of EAHP with PGEU, EIPG, EFPIA, Medicines for Europe, AESGP, GIRP and EAEP, on medicines shortages information, will be a useful contribution to discussions, especially in identifying core needs of such information systems.

The Board Meeting discussed fresh approaches from Medicines for Europe to have a joint meeting on shortages related to generic tendering arrangements and agreed to see if there were pharmacists willing to engage on this topic.

News is expected soon on cooperation between the Heads of Medicines Agencies and the European Medicines Agency on developing European definitions and best practices on medicines shortages. It was noted that the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) was conducting research on medicines shortages.

**Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**

The latest policy development in this area is the very recent publication of a consultation by the European Commission ahead of a new EU Action Plan on AMR. The format of the consultation was a little disappointing in respect to its being a tick box survey rather than providing more open opportunity for input. A separate document might be sent therefore emphasising in more detail such points as:

- The role of the hospital pharmacist in antimicrobial stewardship
- The need for strong targets and measures to galvanise action on AMR
- The need to improve the financing and mandate of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on the topic.

**eHealth, mHealth and medicines barcoding**

Key points from the EMA’s December 2016 stakeholder workshop on Big Data made clear that this topic is fast becoming mainstream in healthcare and hospital pharmacists need awareness of its impacts for practice, including for their discussions with patients.

Regarding the status of progress within the European Commission’s mHealth assessment guidelines working group, a dispute had arisen between healthcare professionals and representatives of app developers as to the scope of the guidelines. Healthcare professionals favoured a broader remit to include patient safety, efficacy and other matters. Developers wished to restrict the remit to a narrow set of categories in respect to data validity and
reliability. The Commission had consented to the app developers request. Further developments are now awaited. The board has suggested that the fast-moving nature of the subject area could merit an update of EAHP’s mHealth position paper.

The Board has also endorsed a new position paper by GS1 on the identification of medicines to the primary package level.

**Medicines access and regulation (including HTA, Biosimilars)**

A short response was sent by EAHP to a European Commission consultation on Health Technology Assessment. It was primarily purposed to signal EAHP as an interested stakeholder to the current debates on the topic and to profile the role of the hospital pharmacist in health technology assessment.

Latest development in the debates currently occurring on biosimilar interchangeability, substitution and switching were discussed by the Board, including: a new position paper by the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) emphasising the need for prescribers to be involved in any switching decisions for a patient; a published article by individuals working for the EMA on interchangeability; a consultation by the FDA in the USA on biosimilar interchangeability, and a European Commission paper for patients to explain what biosimilars are.

The Board agreed again on the value of EAHP making a public intervention in the debate by means of a position paper, to be agreed at the 2017 General Assembly. Key elements of the paper would be:

- Expressing confidence in EMA’s regulatory pathway for biosimilars
- Support for the need for biosimilar uptake to help contain health system expenditure
- Emphasis on the hospital pharmacist role (e.g. in medicines information to patients, prescribers and other healthcare professionals)

**EDQM**

As it is important for EAHP to remain active in the EDQM, EAHP is further considering how we engage and we are pleased to announce that Prof. Branislava Miljkovic (Serbia) has been asked to join the clinical trial committee which she accepted.

**Congress**

The 23rd Congress of the EAHP will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden and the scientific programme has already been completed with the SC members seeking speakers for the programme. The exhibition was opened to industry this week and sales have begun.

The overall congress theme will be ‘Hospital pharmacists – show us what you can do!’ and will be centred around showcasing the importance of the hospital pharmacist’s role in patient care.

As the Scientific Committee is well aware of the important of statement implementation and keen to do their part, the sub-themes for the sessions in Gothenburg will be the statement sections and all sessions would be categorised accordingly. In addition, each session will be linked to individual statements instead of simply statement sections. This will provide content/evidence to include in the new statement web site.

Future congress venues continue to be researched and Barcelona will most likely be the city to host the 2019 congress. I am awaiting news from Prague and Rome regarding their
congress centre expansion plans. Should they not expect completion by 2020, EAHP will return to Vienna pending any new expansions in other destinations.

**Future General Assemblies**

The 2018 General Assembly will take place in Bucharest, Romania and we thank the Romanian Association for volunteering during the last GA. EAHP’s UK member has put forth Edinburgh as a possible destination for the 2019 GA. If your association is interested in hosting future GA’s, please let me know so we can begin our hotel research as soon as possible.

**Academy Seminar**

As approved by the 2016 GA, two Academy Seminars will once again take place in 2017.

The first Academy Seminar will cover pharmacy research and the second seminar will be on the topic of antimicrobial stewardship. The final titles will be confirmed during the congress scientific committee meeting if not sooner. Both programmes will consist of plenary sessions and workshops as usual.

The date for BOTH Academy Seminars has been set for 28 September to 1 October 2017 and will take place in Vienna, Austria. Please begin thinking about which delegates you will be nominating to attend this year’s events.

**Registration will be opened just after the congress.**

Both Academy Seminars will take place during the same dates, same location but with different programmes so each Member will be able to nominate 2 delegates to each event.

As a kind reminder, the country reports submitted to the GA must include details about how the information from the 2016 Academy seminars was disseminated.

**EAHP Staff**

For those who attended the GA in Prague, I gave a presentation on the staffing of the secretariat showing the various scenarios should a staff member be unable to attend and work the congress. I thank you for your support in providing the budget to hire an additional staff member as otherwise, we would be in a difficult place this year in Cannes. Elizabeth Van Staeyen, as expected, did not return from maternity leave and resigned. In addition, Martina De Gregorio will be going on maternity leave the Friday before congress. Lastly, Sandra Teixeira decided to move back to Lisbon where her husband found a job close to her family.

We appreciate your patience during the new staff training period and ask that you please respond to their emails as quickly as possible. The EAHP staff names and roles may viewed on the web site at: [http://www.eahp.eu/about-us/staff](http://www.eahp.eu/about-us/staff).

As announced this week, Richard Price has resigned from EAHP to further his career. Stephanie Kohl has been hired as the new Policy Officer. We should perhaps think about hiring a policy assistant to ensure that more than one staff member is familiar with EAHP’s policy topics. I will be looking at options to present to the GA.

Despite the many changes, we are all enthusiastic and optimistic about the many projects in the pipeline.
Shown below are the various projects, which are either in progress or have been completed since the last GA. The board and staff have been very active in moving projects forward and we look forward to presenting them to you in Malta.

**Finances**

As of the February board meeting the finances are in line with the GA approved budget with few exceptions but we will have a clear report for members by 1 May 2017 when all GA documents are uploaded to the web site. Overall, EAHP will realise a very positive result due to the success of the Vienna congress.

Congress sponsorship sales are stable with three platinum partners (Amgen, Bayer & Pfizer) and one corporate partner (Omnicell).

We are now depending on registration income to reach the congress result needed. It is quite certain that the Cannes congress will not yield the same result as Vienna mainly due to the high costs in France and the VAT of 20% versus the Vienna VAT of 10%. Registration is now the key to success.

There will be one new project requiring financial resources and we will be proposing some updates to the CTF, Implementation and Academy Seminar budgets along with the 2017/2018 proposed budget revision.

Exciting news to report is that EAHP’s rapid movement towards implementation of the statements has drawn much attention from industry and grants are being offered. It has been made clear that grants must be unrestricted and that it is up to EAHP to decide how to use the funding. Omnicell was the first grant received and they have signed up to provide 50,000 USD each year for 3 years. We are currently working with Baxter on a similar grant.

Academy Seminar: Since I was unable to find a suitable hotel within the 85,000 euro budget approved by the GA 2016, we will make use of grant to cover the extra 20,000 euro cost for the seminars. We received proposals from many hotels in many countries and either they could not offer special rates or the hotels were sold out. We are not sure why this is but it seems that the weekend planned for the Academy is a busy one throughout Europe.

Great news is that the costs related to the publishing of the European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy (EJHP) have come in under budget. The 2016 GA approved a budget of 217,000 euro and the costs have come in at 181,174 euro. We have also set up a GBP account and have been purchasing pound sterling when exchange rates make it attractive to do so. We currently have enough sterling to pay for this year’s journal costs with the goal to increase the GBP account with enough reserve to pay journal costs for two years. This account is also used to pay for the survey costs. The journal will be an important aspect of implementation and BMJ has agreed to assist with the project. It is critical that you circulate the below link to your members and ask that they sign up to read the online journal.

[http://www.eahp.eu/publications/journals](http://www.eahp.eu/publications/journals)

The Dutch textbook translations entitled Practical Pharmaceutics has now been published although sales are not coming in as expected.

- copies sold: approx. #650 hard copy, #1200 e-copies (Note PP belongs to 10% most successful Springer titles)
- expected royalties 2015, 2016: approx. €10K
- royalty statement due March 2017

If you have not already purchased a book, you may do so by visiting the EAHP web site at: [http://www.eahp.eu/publications/textbookPractPharm](http://www.eahp.eu/publications/textbookPractPharm).
The board reviewed the member project proposals received from Estonia, Spain and Italy and after discussion decided it would be best to have the Scientific Committee review and make a recommendation to the board. The board will take a decision during the congress board meeting.

The EAHP IT supplier was invited to present the IT solutions to the board in February. The presentation was given with the below points discussed.

- The solution of housing an internal server was not optimal as it would require hiring a full-time employee to manage all systems. In addition, hardware/software would need to be purchased along with update installations. The most important point is that the hardware would become redundant whereas with a cloud based approach, updates could be made.
- Work has been done between Covr and myself to reduce costs and increase efficiency since 2013 by changing hosting providers, however, with the amount of space required within the servers, costs remained high.
- The need for several servers to avoid redundancy, ensure backups along with security and protect against downtime.
- In 2016, I had informed COVR that the costs needed to come down and requested solutions. Changes were already in progress with the first step being to move the outlook exchange server to Office 365 which greatly decreases the amount of server space being used and frees up space for other applications.
- In 2017, the filer server documents will be moved to SharePoint also eliminating space requirements. By the end of the change, EAHP will save approximately 200 euro/month, however, this is still pending investigation into the capabilities.

Lastly, we will be presenting a business case for a new revenue stream as requested by the GA last year. I have been working with Anthony Sinclair, Parisa Mirbod, Andre Rieutord and Andras Sule on a new offering of Synergy Master Classes. The scientific content should be guided by the principles of the European Statements of Hospital Pharmacy along with the Common Training Framework. Several options will be made available and we look forward to presenting our ideas to you.