

# **EuroDURG GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010**

**Brighton, United Kingdom, Friday 20 August 2010 18.00 – 19.00 p.m.**

## **Welcome**

Monique Elsevier, the chair of EuroDURG opened the General Assembly. The members of the Executive Committee of the past 2 years introduced themselves. Monique thanked all ExCO members for the work that has been done in the past years.

## **1. Round of attendees**

All attendants introduced themselves. Overall 32 members from 14 countries participated at the meeting, namely: Bjorn Wettermark (Sweden), Ulf Bergman (Sweden), Brian Godman (Sweden/Italy/UK), Morten Andersen (Sweden, Denmark), Robert Vander Stiechele (Belgium) , Monique Elseviers (Belgium), Vera Vlahovic-Palcevski (Croatia) , Peter Mol (The Netherlands) , Katja Taxis (Netherlands), Petra Denig (Netherlands), Jaco Voorham (Netherlands), Flora Haajer-Ruskamp (Netherlands), Hanne Strom (Norway), Hege Salvesen Blix (Norway) , Kirsten Myhr (Norway), Ingebjorg Buajordet (Norway), Julie Zito (USA), Rosalia Norberto (Portugal), Claudia Furtado (Portugal), Carla Torre (Portugal), José Guerreiro (Portugal), Maria Matuz (Hungary), Ria Benko (Hungary) , Andrew Gilbert (Australia), Bardet Aurélie (France), Elisabetta Poluzzi (Italy) , Emanuel Raschi (Italy), Chiara Sacripanti (Italy) Carlo Piccini (Italy), Begler Begovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Luisa Ibanez (Spain), Hans Petri (United Kingdom).

## **EuroDURG 2008-2010: status change**

In the past three years, EuroDURG gradually moved toward and merged into ISPE. This means that EuroDURG as a standalone organisation will not exist any more, in the future our activities will be organised as the Regional European network of ISPE SIGDUR. Practically, as a consequence of this merge, national chairs will no longer be contacted but members/contacts will be approached individually. As a start, we set-up a comprehensive list (including 773 names) of individual drug utilization researchers and developed a web-based questionnaire for their registration. We also distributed our 2010 Bulletin to all these people. By 2010 August, 143 persons from 40 different countries registered as active drug utilization researcher, of which 57% indicated to be interested to take up an active role in our organisation. The old EuroDURG webpage has been already transferred to the ISPE webpage. In the next months updates and style change will be realized. Presently our webpage is available through two addresses: [www.eurodurg.com](http://www.eurodurg.com) and [www.pharmacoepi.org/eurodurg](http://www.pharmacoepi.org/eurodurg).

## **Financial status**

The treasurer, Peter Mol presented the financial report. The start capital was 3153 Euro in August, 2008 which has shrunk to 583 Euro by August, 2010. Our main expenditures were teleconferences (1371 Euro) and the webpage maintenance (1560 Euro). In the future ISPE will cover the teleconferences and we expect/hope some income from EU projects also.

## **Status report and presentation of ongoing projects**

### **Cross national comparison (CNC)**

Parallel to the CNC study presented at the Copenhagen meeting, a new initiative (lead by Brian Godman) was made to collect comparative reimbursement data from EU countries on statines, proton-pump inhibitors, antidepressants, and ACE inhibitor/Angiotensin Receptor Blocker use. Data was received from 20 countries. Longitudinal time trends in utilization and expenditures were assessed in relation to national policy and various reforms. In 2009 autumn, data providers and DU researchers gathered to validate and discuss findings in Mechelen.

In the future we aim to establish a 'European centre', that coordinate/help in developing and carry out CNC drug utilization studies in the European region by providing access to data providers, template for data collection, check validity and develop methods for data analysis.

### **International ATC/DDD browser**

In 2010 spring the three participating countries (Belgium, Sweden and Italy) sent the updates for 2009 data. There was some medical informatics problem with the Swedish data, hence ATC browser only with the Belgian data was presented in Brighton.

## **Participation in EC projects**

### **Happy Audit**

The Happy Audit (Health Alliance for Prudent Prescribing, Yield and Use of Antimicrobial Drugs in the Treatment of Respiratory Tract Infections) project ended, the first paper has been published with some EuroDURG ExCO co-authorship. In this project we participated as a separate expert group. As Monique summarized, both the scientific participation of our organization and the money flow is problematic in these EU projects, since we are only a group of volunteers with no official academic base. Direct contact with EU is difficult. Only as a subcontractor, we can participate in European projects in the future.

### **ARITMO**

This project runs from 2010 till 2012 with the aim studying the arrhythmogenic potential of drugs by different tools including drug utilization research. Data on the use of antihistamines, antipsychotics, antiinfectives is planned to be collected through the network setup by the CNC project.

### **PROTECT**

As Luisa Ibanez informed us this EU project has started last year with the aim to strengthen the monitoring of the benefit-risk of medicines in Europe. Drug utilization data for specific drug classes (Ca-channel blockers, antibiotics, anticonvulsants, anti-

epileptics) has been already started. We were asked to help in identifying national data providers. The problem is that – in the absence of any agreement before the project launch – no foundation is provided. Co-authorship was offered for those who can contribute.

## **5. Elections**

The following members/candidates (with the indicated positions and responsible fields) were proposed for the new Executive Committee.

Bjorn Wettermark (Sweden): CHAIR

Ria Benko (Hungary): SECRETARY, communication with the membership

Elisabetta Poluzzi (Italy): website, communication with the membership

Robert Vander Stichele (Belgium): international ATC Browser

Monique Elseviers (Belgium): organisation Health Policy Meeting

Vera Vlahovic-Palcevski (Croatia): organisation Health Policy Meeting

Peter Mol (The Netherlands): liaison with ISPE/SIGDUR

Begler Begovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina): NEW MEMBER

Brian Godman (Sweden/Italy/UK): NEW MEMBER, TREASURER, Cross National DUR

Finally 29 participants voted in the elections of which 28 members supported our proposal with “YES”, so the new ExCO was elected for 2010-2012.

## **7. Closing remarks**

The new chair Bjorn Wettermark closed the meeting. He emphasized that we do not have to invent new things, just use existing ones in a good way. He thanked Monique for leading EuroDURG in this difficult transition period and expressed that he intend to count on the knowledge of previous chairs.

Ria Benko and Monique Elsevier  
2010 August 31, Szeged, Hungary.