

EuroDURG BULLETIN

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EUROPEAN DRUG UTILIZATION RESEARCH GROUP,
EUROPEAN CHAPTER OF THE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF DRUG UTILIZATION RESEARCH
(SIG-DUR) OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PHARMACOEPIDEMOLOGY (ISPE)



Message from the Chair

Dear colleagues and friends interested in Drug Utilization Research!

First of all, wishing you all the best in your professional and private lives. I hope the new year is successful for everyone in our community. The new year means a new EuroDURG Bulletin, a long-standing tradition for 30 years, since the establishment of EuroDURG at Lake Balaton, Hungary, in 1996.

After serving EuroDURG as a secretary since 2008 August, I am honoured to continue my passion for the community as the new Chair starting in 2025. Firstly, I would like to thank Elisabetta Poluzzi for all her devoted time and work she has put in as the previous chair of EuroDURG, which enabled our achievements in the past years.

CONTENT

Chair's notes •

A look into past events
EuroDURG Conference
2025 •

Projects •
Updates of 2025

Upcoming events •
Next conferences
Gröningen summer school

The year 2025 was very busy for us, as our bi- (or tri-) annual EuroDURG meeting was organised in Uppsala, Sweden. The Uppsala conference was one of the most successful EuroDURG conferences so far, with more than 340 participants from almost 40 countries. With this conference, we saluted Björn Wettermark, who has been a member of the EuroDURG Executive Committee for more than 20 years (since 2005), served as EuroDURG chair for seven consecutive years and did an enormous job with the local Swedish team to make the conference happen. Not only the quantitative metrics, but also the qualitative responses of the evaluation form confirmed the high success of the event, which proves the excellent work of the scientific committee led by Indrė Trečiokienė and Sabine Vogler, and the local organising committee led by Björn Wettermark. Lastly, we should thank Monique Elseviers for the arrangement of the abstract selection and all board members who were active in the conference, both as organisers or presenters.

What other activities did we have in 2025?

In relation to the Uppsala conference organisation, we had numerous online meetings. Some EuroDURG members were also actively participating in the organisation of the second ISPE LATAM Pharmacoeconomics Congress in Sorocaba, Brazil. Thanks to our communicators, Ana Tomas and Irina Iaru, we were active on social media. As part of the educational mission of EuroDURG, three webinars were organised. Many projects were successfully ended or moved forward (see separate section below). Finally, a "Memorandum of Understanding" was signed off between EuroDURG and ESCP. I sincerely hope that we, the 'old' board members and newcomers (see info at the end of this Bulletin), will be able to preserve all the good things we developed through the years, while we will be open-minded and can renew/refresh according to the upcoming needs and the continuous evolution of the DUR domain.

As a new chair, with a never-before-seen huge executive board, together with the whole team, we have recently explored ways of effective functioning for the future, I will greatly rely on Irina Iaru, secretary of EuroDURG, whose contribution is essential for the proper functioning. As I believe in teamwork and the good representation of people with different demographics, background and expertise, I am counting on not only the hard "core" board of EuroDURG but also on the newly formed advisory board of senior people.

In 2026, the main event organised by EuroDURG ISPE will be the summer school in Groningen, the Netherlands. Please save the date: 24th- 28th August and prepare your (junior) researchers or interested colleagues to join!

Finally, I sincerely hope we can jointly promote the rational use of medicines across Europe in the coming years! Please get to know the current achievements and plans of EuroDURG in this Bulletin.

Ria Benko
Chair of EuroDURG
European chapter of ISPE SIG
DUR



EURODURG CONFERENCE IN UPPSALA, 2025

The first week of July 2025, we organised a 4-day conference hosted by the University of Uppsala in Sweden. The conference gathered 343 people from 38 countries, and consequently became the largest EuroDURG conference so far.

The Conference, entitled **“Bridging Data, Policy & Patients in Drug Utilization Research”**, offered a rich scientific programme covering a variety of topics addressed through **Drug Utilization Research (DUR)**. These ranged from important core DUR areas such as adherence, polypharmacy, safety and DUR for specific populations and specific therapeutic areas to policy-related aspects, including accessibility of medicines, medicine shortages and pricing, as well as research in novel fields, e.g., digitalisation and artificial intelligence, drugs in the environment and crisis preparedness.



The EuroDURG conference also specifically featured cross-national collaborative research and offered a special session with a global health perspective.



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET



Building on previous conferences, the 2025 EuroDURG conference programme provided inspiring keynote talks, interesting presentations, a diversity of posters, interactive workshops and room for an exchange of ideas and knowledge.

The 3-day scientific programme was preceded by a day of satellite program and educational sessions. **A total of 48 oral abstract presentations and 243 posters contributed to stimulating scientific discussion.** The accompanying social programme included guided tours in the old city quarter and the botanical garden, a welcome reception in the old university faculty rooms, an early career evening, a Viking experience and a big party at the castle of Uppsala.



The conference evaluation questionnaire was completed by 33% of the participants. The conference was very well received, with participants praising the high scientific quality, diverse and up-to-date topics, strong keynote speakers, networking opportunities and good overall organisation.

Overall, the conference was a great success, and we express our thanks to our sponsors and particularly the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology, Uppsala University, Swedish Medical Products Agency and Uppsala Monitoring Centre for their generous support.

by Björn Wettermark

Report on European Projects

The EMMA project

The EMMA project (Exposure to Medications Measured using the ATC/DDD classification system) aims to foster reproducibility and comparability of studies using the ATC/DDD standard through three distinct initiatives.

First, the global EMMA survey has already collected nation-level information on the implementation and maintenance of the ATC/DDD from approximately 100 DU experts representing 50 different countries. Analysis of survey responses is ongoing and expected to be completed by February 2026.

Second, the EMMA scoping review, which aims to document how pharmacoepidemiologists have recently reported on the use of the ATC/DDD methodology in the scientific literature published since 2023, is currently focusing on the extraction of relevant information from 191 papers meeting inclusion criteria. Data extraction is expected to be concluded by the end of March 2026.

Third, the EMMA DDD per package (DPP) calculator task force is developing recommendations for the design and creation of a prototype online application for the automatic calculation of the number of DPPs. The task force has collected information from previous relevant experiences and projects and is currently working on the first draft of the recommendations document, which is expected to be ready by February 2026.

The results from the three initiatives of the EMMA project will be submitted for presentation at the next ISPE conference, to be held in August 2026 in Milan, Italy. The evidence generated by the three initiatives will represent the basis for the drafting of a manuscript about ATC/DDD-specific recommendations on best reporting practices, a proposal which was awarded ISPE funding in 2025.

by Giuseppe Roberto and Elisabetta Poluzzi



Photo from EuroDURG Conference 2025, Uppsala, Sweden

Drug Utilization Research Databases Appraisal of Maturity (DURDAM) Project – 2025 Progress Update

This international initiative to develop a tool for assessing the maturity of drug utilization (DU) data sources, launched to strengthen drug utilization research (DUR), made significant strides in 2025. Building on earlier phases, the project advanced towards formal validation of its structured maturity model and self-assessment tool. This framework enables countries and organisations to benchmark the quality of their DU datasets, fostering better data collection, sharing, and cross-country comparability.

Key achievements this year include:

Consensus and Tool Development: The Delphi-based process successfully defined essential features of high-quality DU datasets, resulting in a practical appraisal tool.

Validation and Dissemination: Work began on validating the scoring system and preparing a peer-reviewed publication to promote global adoption.

Engagement and Collaboration: International partners, including Scotland and Lithuania, are drafting collaborative papers to showcase implementation strategies and encourage uptake. These efforts aim to support evidence-based medicines policy, enhance drug utilization research, and strengthen global collaboration in data-driven healthcare.

by Sean MacBride Stewart

Cross-national comparative studies on the introduction of biologicals

Many new biopharmaceuticals are introduced on the market. They may offer benefits for the treatment of many diseases, but European countries face challenges related to their comparatively high price and need for additional healthcare resources for administration and follow-up.

Under the lead of Ivar Veszelei, Uppsala University and with the help of EuroDURG, a large cross-national study has been conducted on variation in the early diffusion of biopharmaceuticals across Europe. A first paper was published in 2025, and further studies are now on the way for biologicals for the treatment of migraine, hyperlipidemia and asthma.

by Ivar Veszelei

Reference: Veszelei I, Godman B, Aaltonen K, Selke GW, Garuolienė K, Cangini A, Kurdi A, Rodrigues AT, Pontes C, Torre C, Lunghi C, Burton E, Poplavská E, Jónsdóttir F, Petrova G, Langner I, Iaru I, Odnoletkova I, Slabý J, Gvozdanić K, Saastamoinen L, Laius O, Benkő R, Žiogaitė S, McTaggart S, Mueller T, de Pando T, Tesař T, Mitkova Z, Wettermark B. Introduction of Biopharmaceuticals in Europe: A Cross-Sectional Study of Early Diffusion Patterns and Data Availability. *BioDrugs*. 2025;39:735-751.

European Medicines Agency (EMA) activities



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

Focus on Pharmacoepidemiology, RWE & Big Data
In 2025, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) continued to strengthen the integration of real-world evidence (RWE) and pharmacoepidemiology into regulatory decision-making.

EMA expanded the use of DARWIN EU®, enabling rapid generation of real-world data studies that support assessments across committees such as the Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC), the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) and others (1). The third report on regulatory-led RWE studies covering February 2024 to February 2025, showed notable growth in the use of RWE for safety monitoring, post-authorisation assessments and addressing evidence gaps where clinical trial data were limited (2).

Under the HMA–EMA Big Data Steering Group Workplan 2023–2025, EMA achieved several important milestones during 2025. These included the expansion of European RWD catalogues, the advancement of data-quality guidance, and a marked increase in RWE studies generated through DARWIN EU®, moving toward the target of 100 studies per year (3). Such outputs improved data accessibility, representativeness and methodological coherence across the pharmacoepidemiological landscape. In parallel, the EU's broader Data & AI workplan to 2028 emphasises advanced analytics, interoperability, and alignment with new legislation such as the European Health Data Space and the AI Act (4).

A major regulatory update in 2025 is Regulation (EU) 2025/1466, which revises pharmacovigilance rules, strengthens EudraVigilance monitoring requirements, and mandates harmonised data standards (5). EMA's mid-year reporting also highlights the growing use of RWE in post-authorisation safety monitoring and signal assessment activities (6). Together, these initiatives reflect EMA's continued shift toward a data-driven regulatory ecosystem, improving evidence quality, strengthening safety monitoring, and supporting faster, more informed decision-making across the EU medicines framework.

At a global level, but with participation and impact in Europe, it is also important to emphasise the final version of the ICH M14 guideline on general principles on plan, design and analysis of pharmacoepidemiological studies that utilise real-world data for safety assessment of

medicines (7) has been published in 2025, marking the first harmonised guidance for non-interventional studies aiming to generate RWE. This guideline recommends international standards and promotes the harmonisation of the general principles for planning, designing, analysing, and reporting on noninterventional studies that utilise fit-for-use data for the safety assessment of medicines (key principles may also apply to effectiveness studies). The guideline outlines recommendations and high-level best practices for conducting non-interventional pharmacoepidemiologic safety studies to streamline the development and regulatory assessment of study protocols and reports.

1. European Medicines Agency. Real-world evidence – EMA/152628/2024. 2024 Apr 12.

Available from: <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/about-us/how-we-work/data-regulation-big-data-other-sources/real-world-evidence>

2. European Medicines Agency. Real-world evidence framework to support EU regulatory decision-making: 3rd report on experience gained from regulator-led studies (February 2024–February 2025). Available from: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/report/real-world-evidence-framework-support-eu-regulatory-decision-making-3rd-report-experience-gained-regulator-led-studies-february-2024-february-2025_en.pdf

3. EMA–HMA Big Data Steering Group. Big Data Workplan 2023–2025. Available from: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/work-programme/workplan-2023-2025-hma-ema-joint-big-data-steering-group_en.pdf

4. European Medicines Agency. Leveraging the power of data for public and animal health. Available from:

<https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/leveraging-power-data-public-animal-health>

5. European Commission. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1466 of 22 July 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 520/2012 on the performance of pharmacovigilance activities. Available from: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/1466/oj/eng

6. European Medicines Agency. Mid-year report 2025 (Jan–Jun 2025). Available from:

<https://www.ema.europa.eu/system/files/documents/report/mid-year-report-2025-en.pdf>

7. ICH M14 Guideline on general principles on planning, designing, analysing, and reporting of non-interventional studies that utilise Real-World Data for safety assessment of medicines (EMA/CHMP/ICH/155061/2024). Available from <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/ich-m14-guideline-general-principles-plan-design-analysis-pharmacoepidemiological-studies-utilize-real-world-data-safety-assessment-medicines-scientific-guideline>

by

Katarina Gvozdanović

Carla Torre

ENCePP activities

During 2025, the European Network of Centres for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance (ENCePP), coordinated by the European Medicines Agency, continued to expand and strengthen its activities in support of high-quality pharmacoepidemiology and real-world evidence generation across Europe.

Much of the year focused on putting the updated ENCePP Workplan 2024–2026 into practice. This included streamlining governance and processes for Working Groups (WGs) and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to address priority areas in pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacovigilance. Several new Working Groups and Special Interest Groups were formed following a call for interest among ENCePP partners addressing priority areas such as artificial intelligence in pharmacoepidemiology, pragmatism in clinical trials, diversity and health equity, real-world data sources, independence and transparency, and communications.

In February 2025, ENCePP announced that the ENCePP Seal — a mark of adherence to core principles of independent and transparent pharmacoepidemiological research — was discontinued due to limited uptake. Core tools such as the ENCePP Code of Conduct and methodological guidance remain available and encouraged for use. The annual ENCePP Plenary Meeting, held in a hybrid format in December 2025 in Amsterdam, provided an opportunity to review progress since the previous year, introduce the new working structures, and discuss ENCePP activities in the context of broader European initiatives such as DARWIN EU, the European Health Data Space, and evolving regulatory guidance on real-world evidence. The methodological sessions focused on target trial emulation (TARGET-EU project) and pragmatic clinical trials.

Throughout the year, ENCePP maintained an active communication programme, publishing news items, Steering Group minutes, surveys, and reports, as well as contributing to scientific dissemination. Selected chapters of the ENCePP Guide on Methodological Standards in Pharmacoepidemiology were published as part of a joint publication series in Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety and Value in Health, with further articles under development.

Overall, 2025 marked a year of consolidation and growth for ENCePP, reinforcing its role as a key European platform for collaboration, methodological excellence, and transparency in pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacovigilance.

by Katarina Gvozdanović





EACPT activities

The 17th Congress of the European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (EACPT) was held 28 June–1 July 2025 at the University of Helsinki, Finland, under the theme “Embracing Innovations for Optimized Patient Care.” The event brought together clinical pharmacologists, drug development scientists, regulators, educators and other stakeholders from across Europe and beyond to advance science and practice in clinical pharmacology and therapeutics.

The scientific program featured three parallel thematic tracks—Clinical Pharmacology in Healthcare and Teaching, Drug Research and Development, and Emerging Drugs and Therapies—offering over 24 focused sessions, workshops and poster presentations. Delegates engaged in discussions spanning translational pharmacology, novel therapeutic modalities, and regulatory and ethical challenges.

Keynote presentations from globally recognised experts addressed major topics including the European Medicines Agency’s role in fostering innovation, the health impacts of climate change, and lessons from tracking infectious diseases.

The 2025 EACPT Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed (UK) for his outstanding contributions to pharmacogenetics and drug safety, highlighted by his award lecture on research to protect patients.

Interactive workshops focused on precision dosing, diversity in clinical drug development, and teaching clinical pharmacology. A vibrant social programme, including a sauna evening and networking events, complemented the scientific activities, fostering collaboration and community growth.

In summary, EACPT 2025 advanced patient-centred innovation, supported early-career talent, and reinforced the integration of research, education and regulation for improved patient care.

by Gaye Hafez

SAVE THE DATE

hello lille

EACPT

With the support of

Société Française de Pharmacologie et de Thérapeutique

EACPT Lille
June 26th – 29th 2027

During the 2025 ISPE Annual Meeting "Advancing Policy and Patient Outcomes with Pharmacoepidemiology", held from 22 to 26 August 2025 in Washington DC, USA, EuroDURG was represented by several active members. In addition to participating in the scientific programme, EuroDURG colleagues contributed directly to capacity building in the field by participating in the two pre-conference educational courses: "Introduction to Drug Utilization Research: Methods for Real-World Drug Utilization Studies" and "Advanced Drug Utilization Research". EuroDURG members also contributed to a poster spotlight session, where several posters dedicated to drug utilization research were presented and discussed. These interactions remain essential for exchanging new insights and building collaborative networks that advance our understanding of medicine use in real-world settings.

These activities brought together students, early-career researchers, and experienced experts, creating a valuable learning environment that fostered knowledge exchange across generations. This encouraged dialogue and the sharing of practical experience, strengthening the methodological foundations of drug utilization research. Initiatives like these underline EuroDURG's longstanding commitment to supporting the development of the field and ensuring that high-quality drug utilization research continues to evolve worldwide. As we look ahead, we warmly invite the community to join us again at the 42nd ISPE Annual Meeting, taking place from 29 August to 2 September 2026 in Milan, Italy. We hope to meet many of you there and continue strengthening the international network of drug utilization researchers.

by Carla Torre

Unlocking the Power of
Pharmacoepidemiology
to Improve Patient Health

 **ispe** International Society
for Pharmacoepidemiology
42ND ANNUAL MEETING

August 29 - September 2, 2026
Allianz Milan Convention Center
Milan, Italy



ISPE LATAM

The II ISPE LATAM Pharmacoepidemiology Congress, held in Sorocaba, Brazil, was a highly successful milestone for the Latin American pharmacoepidemiology community.

The congress brought together 201 participants from 19 countries and seven Brazilian states, spanning academia, government, and industry, and offered a rich scientific and educational programme including four pre-conference courses, four scientific symposia, and 24 invited international speakers. With 129 abstracts submitted and a strong representation of key research areas such as drug utilization research and pharmacovigilance, the meeting showcased the growing scientific maturity and productivity of the region. Beyond its scientific achievements, the congress strengthened cross-regional collaboration, fostered early-career engagement, and reinforced Latin America's role within the global pharmacoepidemiology ecosystem, setting a strong foundation for continued collaboration toward the III ISPE LATAM Congress.



by Luciane Cruz Lopes, chair ISPE LATAM



II ISPE LATAM PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGY CONGRESS

09 - 11 October 2025

Sorocaba, São Paulo, Brazil



PRIMM

Prescribing and Research In Medicines Management (PRIMM) Ireland and the United Kingdom

The 35th Annual Scientific Meeting of PRIMM took place in Manchester on 12 December 2025, focusing on “shaping the digital future of healthcare: data-driven decision-making.”

Keynote speakers addressed how data and digital tools are transforming healthcare:

Dr Andrea Schaffer (Bennett Institute for Applied Data Science) described using the OpenSAFELY platform to evaluate medicine use.

Dr Craig Heath (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde) discussed linking routine patient data with emergency admissions to identify and alert clinicians to adverse epilepsy events.

Professor Nick Reynolds (Newcastle University) presented the AI-Multiply project, which uses artificial intelligence to detect patterns in patients with multiple long-term conditions and polypharmacy that predict poorer health outcomes.

Angela McFarlane (IQVIA) spoke about using UK real-world data to improve access to obesity medicines and transform obesity care pathways. Yvonne Adebola (Use MY data) provided a patient perspective on data-driven decision-making.

by Sean MacBride-Stewart

THE MEETING ALSO FEATURED ORAL PRESENTATIONS FROM THE AUTHORS OF THE TOP THREE ABSTRACTS:

Dr Seán MacBride-Stewart (winner of the Hugh McGavock Award) on the impact of medicines management in a Scottish health board.

Dr Paul Deslandes on prescribing drugs with high anticholinergic effects on cognition.

Joseph Brayson on how socioeconomic deprivation affects antibiotic prescribing in secondary care in North-East England.

A full report will be published on the PRIMM website (PRIMM | Prescribing and Research in Medicines Management (UK & Ireland)) and the meeting abstracts in a supplement to *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety*.



ESCP activities

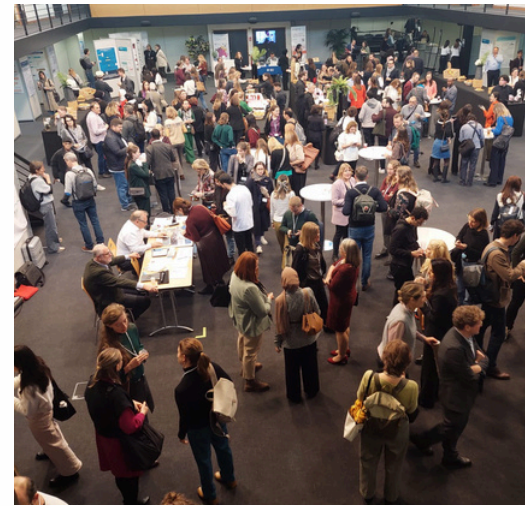
From Interprofessional Education to Action: Key Insights from ESCP 2025

The 2025 European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP) Annual Symposium, held from 26 to 28 November 2025 in Grenoble, France, brought together nearly 380 participants from 44 countries to examine how interprofessional collaboration can be effectively translated from education into routine clinical practice.

The scientific programme focused on the real-world impact of collaboration, with plenary lectures highlighting the importance of clearly defined professional roles, shared responsibility, and patient partnership. Speakers stressed that interprofessional collaboration is not merely an organisational framework but a professional culture that directly affects quality of care, medication safety, and patient outcomes.

Plenary sessions showcased established models of interprofessional care across various healthcare settings, including primary care, healthcare centres, and long-term care. Key topics included medication safety, transitions of care, non-medical prescribing by pharmacists and nurses, and optimisation of pharmacotherapy within multidisciplinary teams.

Innovation was a central theme, with sessions addressing the use of digital tools, artificial intelligence, and simulation-based education to support clinical decision-making, improve adherence, and advance pharmacy education. These discussions highlighted the growing need for pharmacists to embrace technological innovation while maintaining a patient-centred approach.



A particularly impactful plenary lecture by Prof. Robert Horne addressed patient non-adherence as a major challenge in pharmacotherapy. He emphasised that non-adherence should be understood through patients' beliefs, motivations, and behaviours rather than viewed as simple disobedience.

Overall, the symposium reinforced the essential role of clinical pharmacists within interprofessional teams, contributing significantly to medication safety, therapeutic optimisation, and patient engagement.

These discussions will continue at the [ESCP Spring Workshop](#) in Innsbruck, Austria, from 19 to 20 February 2026, themed "5 Steps of Medication Safety: Medication Without Harm, Where Are We Now?", offering an important opportunity to assess progress toward the WHO's global medication safety goals and share experiences worldwide. We look forward to welcoming you in Innsbruck!

Dr. Anna Oleárová, ESCP President

ISPE DUR SIG

As the incoming chair of the ISPE DUR SIG, I am excited to be in a position where I can help promote and support DUR activities across our community. My career has spanned multiple institutions in Canada, Europe, and the United States, reinforcing the importance of international collaboration and interdisciplinary research—values I look forward to bringing to my tenure as Chair. I am also passionate about promoting the work of students and early career researchers, and I look forward to working with the society on developing opportunities through online DUR SIG events and at our annual ISPE meeting.

The 2025 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC was another success for the DUR SIG. The pre-conference courses were very well attended and received highly positive feedback. We were also pleased to award the DUR SIG Spotlight Poster Prize to Kawtar Zouaidi (UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry) for her presentation, “Adverse Outcomes Associated with High-Risk Medication Administration to Children During the Dental Visit, 2014–2020,” selected from a competitive field of spotlight presentations.

Looking ahead to 2026, we anticipate a strong year, with a large turnout expected at the Annual Meeting in Milan this August. Outside of the annual meeting, I will also be present at the 2026 AfRIG meeting in Accra, Ghana, along with many of our DUR SIG members. Our first online event of 2026 was scheduled for January 27th. Mina Tadrous and I hosted a virtual workshop on abstract writing in DUR research, aimed at students and early-career researchers. We offered practical guidance on how to write a compelling abstract for ICPE, shared insights into the peer-review process, and participants had the opportunity to submit and receive personalised feedback on their abstracts following the workshop.

Stay tuned to the [ISPE Exchange website](#) for future activities. I also encourage any member of the DUR global community to reach out via [email](#) or the [ISPE Exchange website](#) with ideas for events or initiatives. I would be delighted to work with you to support new opportunities and help bring outstanding DUR research into the spotlight.

by Andrea Burden

ESPACOMP

Celebrating 30 Years of Adherence Science: Save the Date for ESPACOMP 2026

We are delighted to announce that the 30th Annual Conference of ESPACOMP (International Society for Medication Adherence) will take place in Utrecht, The Netherlands, from November 18–20, 2026. This milestone edition will be hosted by the Make-It Consortium (Medication Adherence Knowledge, Expertise and Implementation Taskforce). As a "festive edition", the conference will not only reflect on three decades of progress in adherence science but also look forward to implementing medication adherence research into evidence-based policies, programs and practices that are useful to people taking medications, healthcare professionals, policy makers, and researchers in both public and private organisations

ESPACOMP is dedicated to the science of medication taking, specifically addressing the gap between healthcare providers' prescriptions and patients' actual use.

Next year's program will offer a robust platform for interprofessional collaboration, addressing key themes such as:

Implementation science, being the major focus of the local host, the Make-It Consortium: Understanding how to effectively translate adherence interventions into evidence-based policies and daily clinical practice.

The drivers of non-adherence: Understanding the behavioural and systemic reasons behind medication use patterns.

Clinical and economic impact: Quantifying the consequences of non-adherence.

Join us in Utrecht as we celebrate our 30th anniversary. We warmly invite all researchers, policymakers, and healthcare professionals within EuroDurg to join us. This is an opportunity to advance the evidence base on medication adherence and share insights that bridge the gap between research and real-world patient outcomes.

We look forward to welcoming you to Utrecht!

Dr Marcia Vervloet (President ESPACOMP)
Make-it Consortium (local organisers)

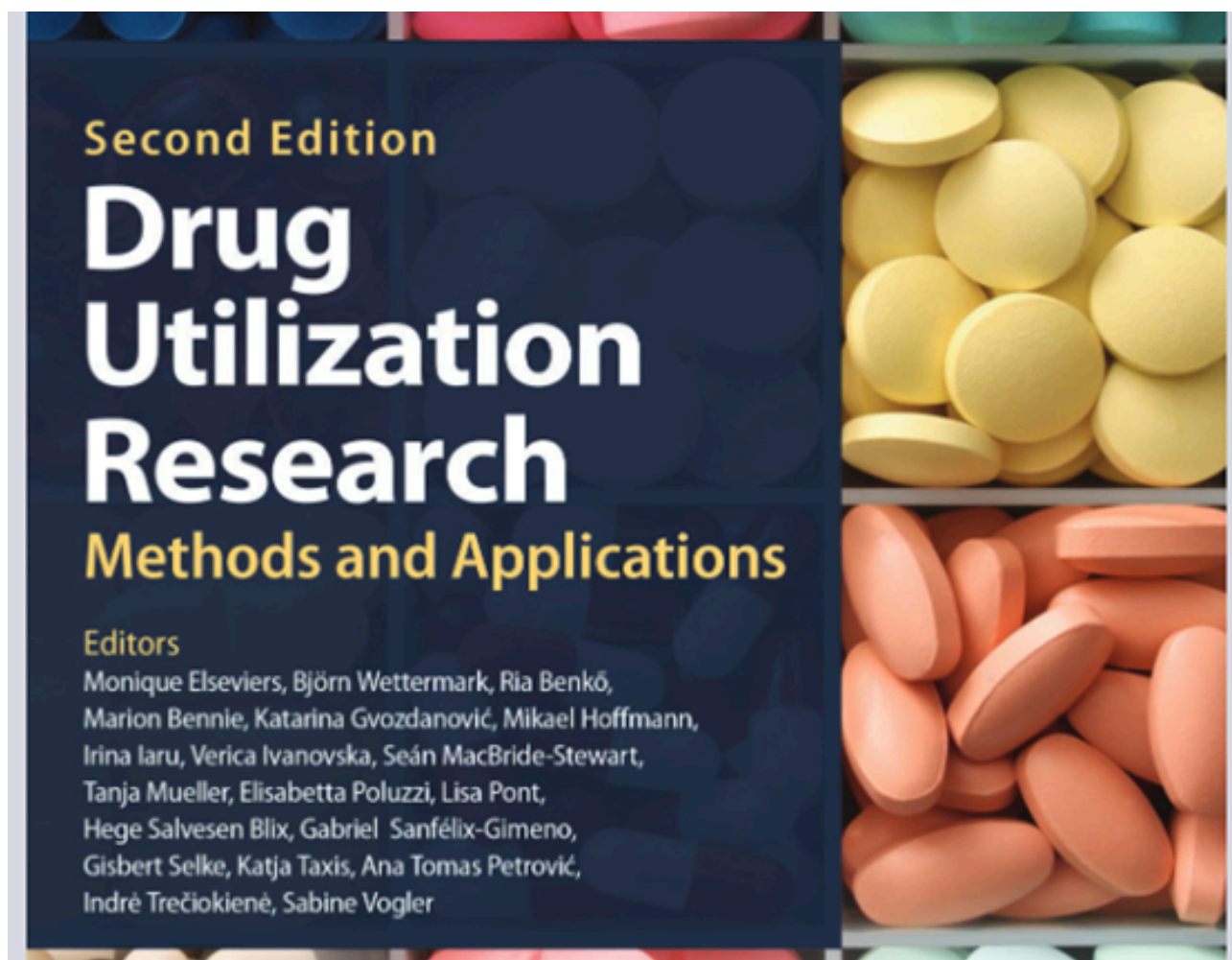
by Tinne Dilles

**UTRECHT,
THE NETHERLANDS**

Save the date

November 18-20, 2026

[Leeuwenbergh.me](https://leeuwenbergh.me)



Are you a health care professional or a scientist interested in the use of medicines and related outcomes? And you didn't order the reference book of drug utilization research (DUR) yet?

This book, **Drug Utilization Research - Methods and Applications**, provides a comprehensive introduction to the discipline of drug utilization research. It could be realized thanks to an intensive collaboration between all board members of EuroDURG.

You can order the DURbook in printed or electronic format via the Wiley Online Library bookstore using the following references:

Drug Utilization Research - Methods and Applications, 2nd Edition

Online ISBN/Product ID: 9781119911685

Print ISBN: 9781119911654, price 153 EUR

Glasgow Declaration: Increasing Access to Drug Utilization Data

The EuroDURG community initiated an action to increase access to drug utilization (DU) data during the EuroDURG Conference in Glasgow in November 2017. A definitive version of the Declaration was presented at the EuroDURG conference in Szeged, Hungary, in 2020. This was followed by an engagement of ISPE with their endorsement of the Declaration secured in February 2022. In 2024, the Declaration was available on the ISPE website and distributed internationally. If you haven't joined us in this call yet, please use the following link to endorse the Glasgow Declaration as an individual subscriber and/or in the name of your organization. Glasgow Declaration - International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology, national organizations involved in the health care of patients at the global or national level. Additionally, the declaration has been disseminated using social media with a call for endorsement. All these forms of support will be assembled and brought to the attention of health policymakers, calling for improved DU data availability and accessibility with the ultimate goal of improving health care for all, at the national and global level.

If you haven't joined us in this call yet, please use the following link to endorse the Glasgow Declaration as an individual subscriber and/or in the name of your organization.

by Monique Elsevier

*Did you sign the EuroDURG
Glasgow Declaration:*



[LINK IS HERE](#)

Subgroups in EuroDURG

Research funding initiative

The EuroDURG subgroup Research Funding Initiative was established at the beginning of 2024, with Laura Sahm, Gaye Hafez, Ramune Jacobsen and Tinne Dilles leading this activity. Through dedicated discussions during Working Group meetings, the subgroup systematically explored national and international funding opportunities relevant to drug utilization research. The outcomes were compiled into a comprehensive overview and shared with EuroDURG Executive Board members and the wider EuroDURG community via social media, aiming to stimulate research collaboration and support international student and staff mobility.

A key research suggestion emerging from this work is the potential development of an MSCA COFUND programme for 2026, focusing on AI, big data and drug utilisation research. Such a programme could support doctoral and postdoctoral researchers while strengthening research capacity, training quality, and international visibility across participating organisations.

In addition, the subgroup identified several relevant funding calls, including EU4Health, Erasmus+, ERA4Health, Horizon Europe, the Innovative Health Initiative, and Wellcome. This overview provides a valuable resource to support future EuroDURG-led collaborations and strategic research planning.

Webinar series

EuroDURG is organising a series of public webinars open to researchers, clinicians, PhD students and policymakers interested in drug utilization research. The webinars will address a broad range of topics, including therapeutic areas, methodological and technological developments, and regulatory issues influencing medicine use.

The series welcomes both expert-led presentations and interactive discussions on work in progress, creating an open and supportive environment for knowledge exchange and collaboration across disciplines and career stages.

Participation is free, and updates on upcoming sessions, speakers and registration details are shared via EuroDURG's LinkedIn channel and the EuroDURG mailing list. Join us and be part of the conversation.

*Join the EuroDURG
Webinar Series -
Open to All*

If you would like to suggest a topic or present your own research in this format, please contact

Carlotta Lunghi carlotta.lunghi@unibo.it
Irene Langner Irene.Langner@wido.bv.aok.de

Future activities – conferences 2026



European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP) Spring Workshop 2026
Theme: Medication without harm, where are we now?
Innsbruck, Austria, 19 – 20 February 2026

5th Annual Conference of Pharmacoepidemiology in Africa
Theme: African data, African solutions: harnessing real-world evidence for safer medicines, vaccines, and health technologies
Accra, Ghana, 20 – 22 April 2026

Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice (HSRPP) conference, 2026
Theme: Following the science: generating and implementing evidence to improve health
Belfast, Northern Ireland, 23 – 24 April 2026

ISPOR 2026
Theme: Health Economics and Outcomes research at the forefront of policy, access, and value
Philadelphia, USA, 17 – 20 May 2026

NordicEpi & NorPEN conference 2026
Tromsø, Norway, 03 – 05 June 2026

European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (EAFP) 2026 conference
Theme: Agile pharmacy curricula by design: ensuring a future-proof pharmacy profession
Tartu, Estonia, 04 – 06 June 2026

International Social Pharmacy Workshop (ISPW) 2026
Theme: Pharmacy First – People Foremost
Cork, Ireland, 28 June – 02 July 2026

20th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology 2026
Melbourne/Narm, Australia, 12-17 July 2026

International Population Data Linkage Network (IPDLN) Conference 2026
Theme: Adapting to a changing world
Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 13 – 16 July 2026

European Drug Utilization Research Group (EuroDURG) Summer School
Groningen, the Netherlands, 24 – 28 August 2026

42nd International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology (ISPE) Annual meeting
Theme: Unlocking the power of pharmacoepidemiology to improve patient health
Milan, Italy, 29 August – 02 September 2026

84th International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Theme: One Health, One Pharmacy – bridging science, practice, and education
Montreal, Canada, 30 August – 02. September 2026

ISPOR Europe 2026
Vienna, Austria, 08 – 11 November 2026

19th European Public Health Conference
Theme: Urban and global synergies: shaping the future of public health with climate resilience, equity and innovation
Bilbao, Spain, 10 – 13 November 2026

Listed by Tanja Mueller

ISPE EURODURG SUMMER SCHOOL

24TH-27TH AUGUST 2026
GRONINGEN, NETHERLANDS



Central theme: Methods for developing and evaluating interventions to improve rational and sustainable drug use

Location: Groningen, The Netherlands

Executive Committee 2025–2028

Ria Benko (Chair)
Szeged, HUNGARY
e-mail: benkoria@gmail.com

Irina Iaru (Secretary)
Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA
e-mail: Cazacu.Irina@umfcluj.ro

Elisabetta Poluzzi (Past Chair)
Bologna, ITALY
e-mail: elisabetta.poluzzi@unibo.it

Ana Tomas Petrovic (Website and social media)
Novi Sad, SERBIA
e-mail: ana.tomas@mf.uns.ac.rs

Katja Taxis
Groningen, THE NETHERLANDS
e-mail: k.taxis@rug.nl

Björn Wettermark
Uppsala, SWEDEN
e-mail: bjorn.wettermark@uu.se

Emma Aarnio
Kuopio, FINLAND
e-mail: emma.aarnio@uef.fi

Tinne Dilles
Antwerp, BELGIUM
e-mail: tinne.dilles@uantwerpen.be

Irene Langner
Berlin, GERMANY
e-mail: irene.langner@wido.bv.aok.de

Carlotta Lunghi
Bologna, ITALY
e-mail: carlotta.lunghi@unibo.it

Verica Ivanovska
Stip, FYR MACEDONIA
e-mail: vericaivanovska@hotmail.com

Anne Gerd Granas
Oslo, NORWAY
e-mail: anne.g.granas@uit.no

Katarina Gvozdanovic
Zagreb, CROATIA
e-mail: katarina.gvozdanovic@gmail.com

Gaye Hafez
Istanbul, TURKIYE
e-mail: gaye.hafez@altinbas.edu.tr, gayehfz@gmail.com

Ramune Jacobsen
Copenhagen, DENMARK
e-mail: ramune.jacobsen@sund.ku.dk

Christos Kontogiorgis
Alexandroupolis, GREECE
e-mail: ckontogi@med.duth.gr

Nataliia Khanyk
Lviv, UKRAINE
e-mail: nataliia.khanyk@uu.se

Elita Poplavska
Riga, LATVIA
e-mail: elita.poplavska@rsu.lv

Sean MacBride Stewart
Glasgow, SCOTLAND
e-mail: sean.macbridestewart@nhs.scot

Tanja Mueller
Glasgow, SCOTLAND
e-mail: tanja.mueller@strath.ac.uk

Igor Rubinic
Rijeka, CROATIA
e-mail: igor.rubinic@kbc-rijeka.hr

Laura J Sahn
Cork, IRELAND
e-mail: L.Sahn@ucc.ie

Carla Torre
Lisboa, PORTUGAL
e-mail: carla.torre@ff.ulisboa.pt

Indre Treciokiene
Vilnius, LITHUANIA
e-mail: indre.treciokiene@mf.vu.lt

Sabine Vogler
Vienna, AUSTRIA
e-mail: sabine.vogler@goeg.at

Sonia Zebachi
Paris, FRANCE
e-mail: s.zebachi@quinten-health.com

Martin Wawruch
Bratislava, SLOVAKIA
e-mail: martin.wawruch@gmail.com

Welcome to new members!



Anne Gerd Granas, Norway

Professor of Social and Clinical Pharmacy at UiT The Arctic University of Norway and Head of Research (CRO) at the med-tech company MedThings. She holds a Master's degree in Pharmacy from the University of Oslo and a PhD in Clinical Pharmacy from University College London. She edited a textbook in Social Pharmacy (2010) and was a Fulbright Scholar at UC San Diego, focusing on innovative interventions to improve medication safety. Her research interests include medication management, deprescribing, eHealth, and adherence-enhancing technologies. She has served on the ESCP General Committee and the COST ENABLE Adherence network.



Elita Poplavska, Latvia

Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy, Faculty of Pharmacy, and a lead researcher at the Institute of Public Health at Riga Stradiņš University, Latvia. In addition, she is a clinical assessor at the SAM of Latvia and a Latvian CHMP delegate to the EMA. She has a degree in Pharmacy from Riga Stradiņš University and a PhD in Social and Administrative Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota. Her recent research projects are related to rational drug use, the effectiveness of risk minimisation measures (RMMs), medication adherence, and the use of patient-reported outcomes.



Emma Aarnio, Finland

PhD (Pharm.), MSc (Health Econ.), She is a senior researcher in the Pharmaceutical Policy Research Group at the University of Eastern Finland. Her research focuses on drug utilization including, for example, medication adherence and she is interested especially in the user perspective on the use of medicines. She has also experience in research in health economics and pharmaceutical policy. She has conducted both quantitative studies as well as qualitative studies based on registers, surveys, and interviews. Currently, she also teaches pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacy practices.



Igor Rubinić, Croatia

He is a clinical pharmacologist at the Clinical Hospital Centre Rijeka and a lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine Rijeka, Croatia. His main interests and daily practice include rational prescribing, medication safety, and antimicrobial stewardship. His research focuses on antibiotics and the epidemiology and management of multidrug-resistant organism infections, including evaluation of novel therapies in clinical studies.



Sonia Zebachi, France

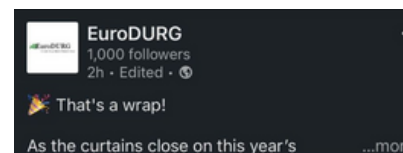
After completing a PhD in biostatistics in 2022, focusing on cardiovascular diseases, metabolic disorders, and HIV infection at an INSERM unit in Paris, France, Sonia Zebachi currently drives the analytical strategy for healthcare projects at Quinten Health, a private AI company based in Paris, France. With 10 years of experience in biostatistics in the public and private sectors, she has gained solid experience in causal inference, innovative statistical methods, and study design in the context of rare diseases (including oncology) based on clinical trial data and, more specifically, real-world data.



EuroDURG on SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2025, content of our EuroDURG LinkedIn page has been shown on feeds of different people more than 40,000 times. Activity on the page increased in months up to, and peaked around the European Drug Utilization conference 2025 in Uppsala, Sweden. We introduced a hashtag to follow your posts during the conference, and soon we have reached a huge milestone. Our LinkedIn community has grown to over 1,000 followers – and we couldn't be more grateful! This allowed us to connect, learn, and exchange ideas with so many passionate professionals. A huge thank-you to everyone who shared their insights using #EuroDURG2025 hashtag.

To stay up to date with all of our activities, follow our [LinkedIn page](#).



Thank you!



If you share content on LinkedIn that is of interest to the drug utilization enthusiasts, tag our page and use the hashtag #eurodurg. We are eager to see what you are up to in 2026 and connect with you.

by Ana Tomas Petrovic

EDITORS

The Bulletin was prepared by the EuroDURG ExCo members.

See contributors below each part. The photos are made public with permission or from personal collections.

Edited by Gaye Hafez, Irina Iaru and Ria Benko.

Send reactions to benkoria@gmail.com

CONTACT

For social media updates contact

[Ana Tomas Petrović](#)

[Irina Iaru](#)

<https://www.pharmacoepi.org/eurodurg/>

