

# EURO DURG bulletin

No. 5

June 1998

## EUROPEAN DRUG UTILIZATION RESEARCH GROUP

*Editors. This issue was prepared by the following members of the Executive Committee of EURO DURG: Nicola Montanaro, Alberto Vaccheri, and Ulf Bergman.*

### Word from the chair

This year EURO DURG will collaborate for its scientific meeting with ISPE (International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology) in its 14th ICPE in Berlin. The information is given elsewhere in this EURO DURG bulletin. We also have a EURO DURG workshop preceding the ICPE meeting. In this workshop the EURO DURG working groups, that started in Berlin 1997, will meet again to discuss drug utilization research issues and possible joint research in the different areas of interest. The activities of the executive committee in the years between the Balaton meeting in 1996 and 1998 are being discussed in the General Assembly as well as a look into our future. We will also elect a new executive committee. For the preparation see the information in this bulletin. It is noteworthy that this meeting will be held in collaboration with the World Health Organisation. We welcome this opportunity to strengthen our ties with WHO. We are glad to be able to tell you that our organisation is growing. Again two more new members can be welcomed, Norway and Israel. We look forward to meet again many of our members. We have good memories of our earlier meetings and look forward to further collaboration.

*Flora Haaijer-Ruskamp  
chair EURO DURG*

### Agenda general assembly

(Berlin, Sunday Aug. 16, 9.00 -11.30)

1. Report from the executive committee
  - Activities 1996-1998
  - Financial report 1996-1998
  - Communication between members
  - Collaboration with other organisations (EACPT, ISPE, WHO)
2. Election of executive committee 1998-2000
3. Nominating committee 2000
4. Feedback from members - country reports, especially from new members



5. Communication and collaboration between DURGs
6. Relationships with 'DURG' groups outside Europe
7. Future meetings

### Report from the Nominating Committee

*drs. Annemarie Hoffmann,  
Ingegerd Agenäs and Ludvik Stika*

#### Candidates for the executive committee 1998- 2000

The executive committee exists of 11 members. Candidates proposed are:  
Belgium: Robert Vander Stichele,  
Czech Republic: Frantisek Perlik;  
Denmark: Morten Andersen (new candidate); Germany: Joerg Hasford (new candidate); Hungary: Zsuzsa Szepezdi; Iceland: Almar Grimsson (new candidate); Israel: Haim Reuveni (new candidate); Italy: Roberto Raschetti (new candidate); Netherlands: Flora Haaijer-Ruskamp ; Norway: Marit Ronning (new candidate); Spain: Emilio Sanz; Sweden: Ulf Bergman; UK: John Ferguson (new candidate)

No proposals for candidates were received in time to put in the Bulletin from Greece.

#### Voting procedure

As described in the constitution voting is per national DURG, i.e. one country one vote. Every country will empower a representative to vote. Members are reminded to notify the nominating committee in time about the name of the representative (Prof. dr. Annemarie Hoffmann, fax +49 3641 937788; email: ahoffmann@landgraf.med.uni-jena.de). Individual members will appoint their representative at the meeting; if enough members are present per country, different country groups can be formed. Needless to say that candidates for the executive committee cannot act as representative from that country for voting.

The voting will be for a chair, and separately for 10 members who will then divide the different functions (vice chair, secretariat, treasurer) among themselves. Candidates for the post of chair are not yet known. The chairs of the national DURGs will be notified about this issue as soon as possible.

The election shall be by secret ballot. Decisions are taken by simple majority vote.

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## EURO DURG WORKSHOP 1998

held in collaboration with the World Health Organisation

Berlin, August 15-16, 1998. Place: Hotel President, An der Urania 16-18, Berlin

### PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

#### *Saturday, August 15*

- 12.00-13.30 Lunch  
 13.30-15.30 Parallel session working groups  
 Mapping Europe (coordinator R. Vander Stichele)  
 Confidentiality (coordinator L von Ferber)  
 15.30-16.00 Tea  
 16.00-18.00 Parallel session working groups  
 The user perspective in drug utilisation research (coordinator E Holme Hansen)  
 Improving the quality of drug use (coordinator I Schubert)  
 19.00 Dinner  
 Social programme

#### *Sunday, August 16*

- 9.00-11.30 General assembly  
 11.30 transportation to the 14th ICPE

#### **14th ICPE with joint sessions ISPE/EURO DURG**

Berlin, August 16-19. Place: Hotel Intercontinental Berlin

Registration to 14th ICPE

**Afternoon 14:30-18:00 ISPE/ EURO DURG Seminar: Introduction to Pharmacoepidemiology**

#### *Monday, August 17*

*Morning, plenary session*

Session 1: Opening session (chair K. Beard)

Session 2: **Joint ISPE/EURO DURG, held in collaboration with WHO** (chairs: M Lewis, U Bergman)

**Antibiotic prescribing for preschool children: a database linked analysis (Thomas R Einarson)**

**Factors associated with antiepileptic Drug Use by the Elderly Nursing Home Residents (Judith Garrard)**

**Polypharmacy in General practice - Differences between Practitioners (Lars Bjerrum)**

**NSAID use and toxicity profiles by country - a European study (Ulf Bergman)**

**Results from an educational intervention in five countries to implement guidelines for prescribing in practice (Petra Denig)**

*Afternoon, parallel sessions*

**Poster sessions drug utilisation ISPE/ EURO DURG in the morning and in the afternoon are held in collaboration with WHO**

#### **August 18 and 19**

see preliminary programme 14th ICPE

For more detail on the 14th ICPE see the preliminary programme, distributed by ISPE (also homepage: [www.pharmacoepi.org](http://www.pharmacoepi.org)).

All chairs of national DURGs will receive a preliminary programme, as well as individual EURO DURG members who received this information before. Chairs of national DURGs are requested to distribute this information to their members.

#### **COSTS FOR EURO DURG WORKSHOP**

Early registration (*before July 1 1998*) 90,-- DM

Late registration (after July 1 1998) 140, -- DM

Including lunch, coffee and tea

Hotel costs (Hotel President)

single room 172, -- DM per night (1 person)

double room 212, -- DM per night (2 persons)

A cheaper alternative (about half an hour by underground) is

Hotel Albatros, Rudolfstrasse 42, Berlin tel. 49 30 897830

110,-- DM single room per night

Please send the registration form to dr. Marion Schaeffer (see attached form)

**Register as soon as possible (before July 1 1998) in order to ensure the cheaper registration fees.**

## Information on the working groups

### Mapping Europe

*Coordinator: R Vander Stichele*

First, work in progress will be presented as a report on the meetings with WHO-Europe, WHO-CC Drug Statistics Methodology, and the European Commission DG III.

Marit Rønning and Robert Vander Stichele will be rapporteur of past activities, in the presence of Kees de Jonckheere, regional advisor for Pharmaceuticals, WHO-Europe.

A draft survey on the status of national drug classification systems and data utilization collection systems will be presented.

The strategy will be discussed for submitting the questionnaire in the different countries, for establishing contact between the competent authorities and the scientific community

A draft of memorandum of the scientific community to the competent authorities, on the subject of the adoption of quality standards in drug utilization review systems.

A draft of standards in drug classification will be presented, and submitted to discussion.

The work of the Centre Europeen de Normalisation on the subject will be presented.

A list of contact-persons per country needs to be established (with the possibility of a 1/8 full time equivalent funding per country).

Preparations need to be made for a European symposium on standards in drug classification, gathering the DURG scientific community and the competent authorities of 20 European countries, Israel and Canada, in early 1999.

### Workshop on confidentiality: balancing personal rights and processing of health data

*Coordinator: L von Ferber*

The workshop will pursue the activities of former workshops on confidentiality of EURO DURG. The European Directive (95/46 EG-ED) on Confidentiality allows the processing of health data only if

1. the specified goals of research are of public interest and cannot be achieved in any other way.
2. the processing of health data is observing special rules for conduct protecting privacy.

Certified researchers have to become authorized not being compelled in any proceedings to identify individuals who are subject of health research ("Confidentiality of research").

To strengthen the position of national DURGers, the workshop will discuss these preconditions and propose a resolution which names specified goals of research of public interest and defines the responsibilities of independent review boards, that will approve the design of research projects using personal health data and their rules of conduct respecting the privacy of patients for certification.

Referees from different European countries will give examples of DUR for supporting public health concerning adverse drug reactions, quality of prescribing or cost containment.

With respect to the promotion of protecting privacy they will refer to the questions

- do already exist independent review boards approving research projects for certification, how are they composed and what are their responsibilities?
- are national DURGs already formulating principles guiding the conduct for drug utilization research using personal health data?

Asked for contributions are UK: Hugh McGavock, Owen Wade; Sweden: Ulf Bergman; Italy: Nicola Montanaro, Roberto Raschetti; Germany: Annekarin Bertelsmann. Contributions from other countries are welcome!

### The user perspective in drug utilisation research

*Coordinator: Prof. E. Holme Hansen*

*Background.* Participants at the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of the European Drug Utilisation Research Group in 1996 at Lake Balaton showed great interest in researching the user perspective on medicine. It was decided to conduct workshops on the User Perspective Project (TUPP) during the EURO DURG Conference in Berlin 1997. The workshop concluded that a project should be developed, with a special focus on antidepressants and tranquillisers. Several EURO DURGers declared their interest as project participants.

The project has been further developed with support from WHO EURO Pharmaceutical Unit.

The *objective* of the Berlin workshop 1998 is to further develop the user perspective in European drug utilisation research.

*Contents.* the workshop will discuss the following topics:

- What do we know already? A summary of previous work on the user perspective (Nicky Britten, London)
- Protocol for a European study - TUPP The User Perspective Project (Ebba Holme Hansen & Anna Birna Almarsdóttir, Copenhagen)
- Strategies for further EURO DURG research re. the user perspective (group discussion and recommendations)

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### Improving the quality of drug use

*Coordinator dr. I Shubert*

Improving rational prescribing is high on the agenda in many countries. Different strategies have been developed but, in particular in Europe, scientific evaluation of their effects is still often lacking. From the evidence so far no general conclusions can be made regarding the effectiveness of different strategies. In the working group meeting in Berlin 1997, the discussion focused on criteria to assess rational prescribing (Eur J Clin Pharmacol 1998;54:113-8, Drug utilization 90% - a simple method for assessing the quality of drug prescribing). This year attention is paid to educational tools and programmes and the implementation of programmes county wide or nation wide.

The *objective* of the meeting in 1998 is to exchange experiences with different approaches and with implementation as well as to formulate the way ahead in drug utilization research regarding evaluation of intervention strategies as well as implementation issues. *Contents:* the workshop will discuss the following topics

Educational programmes, new developments

- The P-drug concept in education (Yunus Kocabasoglu, WHO Collaborating Centre, Groningen, The Netherlands)
- Feedback on decision criteria (Rolf Wahlstrom IHCAR, Stockholm Sweden; Flora M Haaijer-Ruskamp, Groningen, The Netherlands)

Implementation

- Compass system (Hugh McGavock, Belfast, Northern Ireland)
- Peer group review (Liselotte von Ferber, Köln, Germany)
- Peer review implementation (Gert Kocken, Utrecht, The Netherlands)
- Political dimension and future perspectives (Kees de Joncheere, WHO Euro, Copenhagen)

The way ahead in research

- General discussion

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We have the pleasure inviting you to:

## The ISPE-EURO DURG joint sessions on Drug Utilisation

August 17th, 1998

- **Drug Utilization Poster session** (7.30-9.00 and 13.30-15.30)
- **The opening session** (9.00-10.15)
- **The joint ISPE/EURODURG session** (10.45-12.25)

The **Poster session "Drug Utilization"** will be organized by EURO DURG. There was a lot of positive feedback from the last year's poster session, therefore we will again have a peer review group poster session.

The approximately 100 posters concerned with drug utilization research will be split into 10 groups, each chaired by two moderators.

Every poster presenter will give a short 5 minutes talk describing the purpose of her/his research, the methodology, results and interpretation. The moderator will lead the peer review discussion in her/his group with a view to methodology and interpretation of results. The posters will be scored and the **highest scored poster of every group** will be recommended for a **poster-prize**.

The feedback of former poster sessions assured us this is an appropriate way

## EURO DURG WEB PAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

Since a few months ago EURO DURG has also its own WEB page on the Internet. This page contains up-to-date information of the structure and activities of EURO DURG as well as links to other important Internet locations. On the page you can find information about the contact person in each country (normally the Chair of the National Group), the Executive Committee Members and its contact telephone numbers and E-Mails, the Constitution, and the EURO DURG bulletins. Bulletins are displayed in the standard Internet format, but you can also download a "PDF" version. This file can be read with "Acrobat Reader" (a freeware program that you can also download from the page) and printed in the right format with any postscript printer.

The latest news on the activities of EURO DURG or programs for the meetings and workshops are up-to-date as soon as they change. So, please, visit our web-page, mark it in your browser and send any comments to [esanz@ull.es](mailto:esanz@ull.es)

Good navigation.

<http://www.ull.es/sociedades/euro-durg>  
alternatively  
<http://www.csi.ull.es/medicina/euro-durg>

of communicating a poster presentation.

You will find in your small poster group researchers working on similar topics and with similar methods. A scientific discussion may start across the frontiers.

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## Welcome to new members

Already announced in No. 3 of the EURO DURG bulletin is that DURG Israel and DURG Norway were in the process of becoming new members. In the mean time the procedure is finished and we are happy to announce you that they are now full members. Welcome! We look forward to work with you!

### DURG Israel

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