

EuroDURG bulletin

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EUROPEAN DRUG UTILIZATION RESEARCH GROUP

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The Chair's message



Dear friends,

In the previous edition of this bulletin, we kindly invited you to attend the ICPE conference in Copenhagen from 17 to 20 August 2008. We hope that you already planned your trip to Copenhagen to participate in this most important DUR event of the year. Maybe, you contributed already actively by sending in your abstracts for oral or poster presentation.

The main aim of this extra edition of the EuroDURG bulletin is to inform our membership about special DUR related activities that will be organized during the ICPE conference. It will start already on Sunday August 17 with a **pre-conference**

educational session devoted to drug utilization research.

During this three-hour session, the methodological framework and tools for cross-national comparison will be highlighted (R. Vander Stichele, M. Ronning) and advantages and disadvantages will be demonstrated using the results of our SIGDUR/EuroDURG ongoing project (M. Elseviers). Further on, M. Anderson will handle the validity of prescribing quality indicators and C. Dormuth will focus on time trend analysis for program evaluation.

Monday, August 18, during lunchtime, the **DUR poster walk** will be organized. New this year will be the involvement of all visitors of the poster session in the nomination process for the selection of the best DUR poster (see further details in this bulletin).

At ICPE 2008 Copenhagen DO NOT MISS the following events

To all EuroDURgers,
To all scientists active in the field of Drug Utilization Research

Sunday, August 17

- Pre-conference educational sessions: Introduction to Drug Utilization/Health Services Research (**Auditorium 11, 8:30 - 12:00**)

Monday, August 18

- DUR Poster Session (**Hall A1, 12:15 - 13:30**)
- EuroDURG General Assembly (**Room 20, 17:00 - 18:00**)

Tuesday, August 19

- Cross National Comparison Special Workshop & Poster Session (**Poster area, 11:00-12:30**)
- Special Interest Group Meeting SIG/DUR (**Room: see final program, 17:30-18:30**)

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On Tuesday, August 19, we will offer you a **special workshop** organized as a commentated poster session where the results of our **Cross National Comparison (CNC)** project will be presented. In a special contribution of Vera Vlahović-Palčevski on the CNC project, you will find more detailed information about the special poster/workshop session in this bulletin.

Further on, we kindly invite you to attend the **EuroDURG General Assembly** that will be organized on **Monday, August 18, 17:00-18hrs in Room 20** of the Bella Congress centre. We will welcome your contribution to draw out the future of EuroDURG. Through your national representative, you can express your support for our merge with ISPE and the way we propose to do so. During the General Assembly, elections will be organized for the nomination of a new chair and executive committee.

Copenhagen will serve as a milestone in the history of EuroDURG. The future of our organization has been thoroughly discussed during the conferences in Bordeaux, Lisbon and Amsterdam. In January 2008, we launched a general proposal, asking the national DUR groups to send us their reactions. We proposed to merge with the Special Interest Group of Drug Utilisation Research (SIGDUR) of ISPE whereby EuroDURG has to be considered as a coordinating centre for DUR studies in Europe. Our proposal is to develop these activities as the European

chapter of SIGDUR, keeping the rights to engage in European projects, to maintain a European network of DUR researchers with communication via own teleconferences, bulletins, web pages, etc. Several countries reacted, mostly in support of this proposal.

During the General Assembly in Copenhagen, we will ask all our member countries to answer the following questions:

- Does your country support our decision to develop our future activities as the European Chapter of SIGDUR, taking part in the SIGDUR activities but keeping the autonomy to further develop European initiatives?
- Does your country engage to become a represented country of the European Chapter of SIGDUR (with a representative member in the Executive Committee of the European Chapter), under the condition that at least 25% of your national members will become also ISPE members?

Your national chair or contact person (according to the list included in this Bulletin) will receive an invitation from our nominating committee to propose a representative of your country to become elected as the official representative of your country in the new executive committee. Please feel free to contact your national chair if

you are interested to take up this function for the next two-year period.

We look forward to meeting you in Copenhagen! Do not miss this unique opportunity to receive all the latest information in the field of DUR, to present your research work and to meet your colleagues and friends!

Monique Elseviers
Chair EuroDURG



ISPE 2008 annual conference (ICPE) Copenhagen, Denmark

EuroDURGers and all people interested in pharmacoepidemiology are cordially invited to attend the 24th International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology & Therapeutic Risk Management in Copenhagen, Denmark (ICPE 2008). The congress will be held from August 16 - August 20, 2008. Meeting, hotel and registration information can be found at www.pharmacoepi.org

As highlighted in the Chair's message, the conference will be preceded by educational sessions. These preconference educational sessions will provide introduction to pharmacoepidemiological study methods (e.g case control studies), risk management and basic tools of drug utilization research and cross-national comparison. Two key members of EuroDURG ExCo (R. Vander

Stichele, M. Anderson) and the Chair of EuroDURG (M. Elsevier) are invited to lead the educational workshops on drug utilization research. As separate registration is required for some of the educational sessions, please do not forget to check it during your conference registration process.

The rich conference program will offer various plenary sessions, workshops, symposia and poster sessions to the audience. Lectures will be devoted to hot topics such as genetics. Workshops will give insight to advances in statistical methods and biological medicinal products, etc. Pregnancy exposure, CNS drugs and cardiovascular therapy will be also in focus during the conference. Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings will enable participants to deepen knowledge, to pick up recent news and to meet foreign colleagues working on the same field. In addition an innovative EuroDURG poster session will be also organized for contributions in the field of Drug Utilisation Research.

Ria Benko

Pick up the voting paper and select the best DUR poster at Hall A1
Monday August 18,
Bella Center,
Copenhagen at ICPE
2008 conference

INVITATION TO EURODURG GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Monday, August 18, 2008,
from 17:00 to 18:00
ROOM 20, Bella Center

On behalf of the EuroDURG executive committee, I am pleased to announce that the EuroDURG general assembly 2008 will take place in Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark, during the ICPE conference. The general assembly is open to all EuroDURG members.

AGENDA

1. Election of chair and secretary for the meeting
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Report of the EuroDURG Executive Committee 2006-2008
4. Financial Report
5. Election of EuroDURG executive committee 2008-2010
 - Election of chair
 - Election of 10 members
6. Election of nominating committee 2010
7. European chapter of ISPE SIG-DUR (Special Interest Group in Drug Utilisation Research)
8. Changes in EuroDURGs constitution
9. Closing remarks from the chair

We hope that you are able to distribute this information to the EuroDURG members in your country, and we hope to see many EuroDURGs in Copenhagen

Yours sincerely,
Hege Salvesen Blix
Secretary of the EuroDURG
ExCo

INVITATION TO SPECIAL DUR POSTER SESSION:

Monday August 18, 2008,
from 12:30 to 13:30
Hall A1, Bella Center

All drug utilisation research abstracts, submitted within the category of *Drug Utilization Studies* and selected for poster presentation will be included in the DUR poster session.

Each DUR poster presenter will receive a personal letter asking for participation. Poster presenters will be invited to be present at their poster between 12:30 and 13:30 to give a brief presentation on the content of the poster and to answer the questions of the audience. Members of EuroDURG will visit all DUR posters to select the best poster for the EuroDURG poster award. Study design, results, poster layout and content and oral presentation will be scored. Posters will only be considered for nomination if the poster's presenting author will stand next to their work during the DUR poster session.

We kindly invite all researchers in the field of Drug Utilization Research to attend the DUR poster session and to help us to select the EuroDURG poster winner. You can make your selection of best poster on a special form that will be distributed at the entry of Hall A1. After making your choice, you can put the form in the special box at the entry of Hall A1.

We look forward to meeting you during the DUR poster session and to receive your 'best poster' choice.

*Monique Elseviers
Chair EuroDURG*



Since 1998 EuroDURG has its own website available at: <http://www.eurodurg.com/>

On this website you can find information on the organisation and about the related activities. Concerning organisational aspects, you can find the EuroDURG constitution both in English and Spanish language; moreover, it is possible to consult the list of National DURGs Chairs and the list of Executive Committee members. Among activities, you can download all EuroDURG bulletins and acquire information on the current and past research projects (working groups).

If you wish to be informed about the periodical news placed on the website, you can subscribe to the newsletter, in order to receive an e-mail whenever the website is updated.

Elisabetta Poluzzi

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www.eurodurg.com



The overall aim of the European project "HAPPY AUDIT" project and its intervention programme is to reduce the occurrence of bacterial resistance by reducing prescribing of unnecessary antibiotics for respiratory tract infections and by improving the use of appropriate antibiotics in suspected bacterial infections.

**HAPPY AUDIT project:
Health Alliance for Prudent
Prescribing, Yield And Use
of Anti-microbial Drugs In
the Treatment of
Respiratory Tract
Infections**

EuroDURG is a partner in the project participating in the steering committee meetings and providing expert opinion where needed. (as we informed you in the previous bulletin, Vera Vlahović-Palčevski. and Robert Vander Stichele had been chosen to represent us in this project while Hege Salvesen Blix, our secretary, would represent WHO ATC/DDD centre).

The registration period were between 14 January - 1 February, 2008 (except Argentina where it will take place in July, 2008). Patients who visited GP's office with signs of respiratory tract infection and met inclusion criteria were included. A pre-defined registration form were filled out by GPs (see details in previous bulletin).

The status of the project was summarized at the HAPPY AUDIT Steering group meeting in Copenhagen, 15 April 2008. Our expert Vera Vlahović-Palčevski participated in this meeting. Below you find her report about the current activities of EuroDURG experts.

"We were asked to participate in the development of quality indicators for diagnosis and treatment of respiratory tract infections in general practice. (A quality indicator is a measurable variable used to assess quality.)

A number of quality indicators are being developed by means of the Delphi method. (The Delphi method is a consensus method. The main purpose is to define levels of agreement on controversial subjects. It is a multi-stage technique, each stage building on the previous one.)

In this two "rounds" of Delphi surveys over 20 experts (including EuroDURG experts) rate the proposed quality indicators twice. Between the two rounds experts will receive feedback (how he/she scored compared to other participants, anonymous). After the two rounds, the best practice will be defined.

The first Delphi-round were conducted between April 29-May 14. We had to rate 46 proposed indicators: 10 concerning suspected acute sinusitis, 10 suspected acute otitis media, 12 suspected acute tonsillitis/pharyngitis, 14 suspected lower respiratory tract infections (bronchitis, pneumonia and COPD).

Each quality indicator consists of two parts, one concerning relevance for reducing antimicrobial resistance and the other clinical relevance for the patient. The second "Delphi" round will be conducted soon."

Vera Vlahović-Palčevski, Ria Benko

ISPE - Special Interest Group Drug Utilization Research (SIG-DUR)

As reported in the 2007 Bulletin, within the ISPE Special Interest Group - Drug Utilization Research (SIG-DUR) five project groups have been formed.



Summary and updates on two projects with special involvement and contribution of some ExCO members are summarized below.

Update on International ATC/DDD Browser

Within the SIG-DUR (Special Interest Group on Drug Utilization Research) of the International Society of Pharmaco-epidemiology, a special project group was established to promote a project concerning the international Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification (ATC). This project is also endorsed and supported by the European Drug Utilization Group.

Our plan is to create a web application where scientists can browse the ATC classification and select countries to check the link between ATC codes and medicinal product packages (MPP) on the market of that country.

In addition, information will be given on the content of these medicinal product packages, expressed in numbers of Defined Daily Doses (DDD) per package.

The aim of this project (called MPP/ATC/DDD browser) is to provide a practical tool for validity checks of data used in cross national comparisons of drug exposure. In addition, this

application would also identify who is responsible in each country for the maintenance of the link between the evolving therapeutic arsenal and the evolving ATC/DDD classification.

It would be of help within the countries to stimulate cooperation and consistency in the use of the ATC/DDD methodology.

A prototype with the data of one country (Belgium) is to be seen on <http://atc.ramit.be>. We intent to enlarge prototype to 4 European countries by this summer.

During the ISPE meeting in Copenhagen, we plan a meeting on this project, where the initiators and participating countries and countries willing to participate could meet.

Robert Vander Stichele

For the project Group "Interational ATC-DDD Browser" within the IPSE SIG-DUR

Update on Cross National Comparisons

As described in the previous bulletin the aim of the ISPE SIG-DUR Cross National Collaboration group is to describe the status of the art of drug utilisation research (DUR) and related data collection systems.

The first incentive, the dedicated poster session for **ISPE 2008 conference** with participation of several countries is under construction. The special workshop & poster session will take place on **Tuesday, August 19, between 11:00-12:30; Poster area)**

These projects are still open for participation!

During this dedicated poster session structured posters (with common design), one poster presenting one country will be mounted. The information collected and presented on posters will include details on the organisation of DU research in different countries, the availability of DUR data in terms of volume and/or expenditures for ambulatory and hospital use, the sophistication and linkage of these data with patient data and prescriber, description of available databases in the country and information concerning usage of prescribing quality indicators. The information is being collected through a uniformed questionnaire that has been designed for that purpose.

Several European and non-European countries have confirmed their participation or expressed their interest in the project (Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden..

For collaboration

- International ATC/DDD Browser project please contact Robert Vander Stichele
- Cross National Comparison project please contact: Monique Elseviers or Vera Vlahović-Palčevski

See contact details at the ExCo list below

We expect a high participation rate of EuroDURG countries, demonstrating that Europe still plays a leading role in drug utilization research!

For more information and downloading the documents, please visit:

<http://www.eurodurg.com>

For collaboration please contact Monique Elseviers or Vera Vlahović-Palčevski.

Vera Vlahović-Palčevski

For the project Group "Cross National Comparison" within the IPSE SIG-DUR.

NEWS from national DUR groups

German activities in drug utilisation

A conference on new approaches to avoid inappropriate prescribing in the German healthcare system has been held in March 2008 in Frankfurt am Main by the German DURG (GAA e.V.). About 20 members of key academic research groups and health care institutions which are involved in this topic participated. The program included a survey of current research activities and consent of future, joint activities. A German version of the conference minutes can be received from Prof. S. Harder (harder@em.uni-frankfurt.de).

*Prof. Sebastian Harder
Chair of the GAA eV*

We invite other national DUR groups to inform us about their activities! Please send your summary to monique.elseviers@ua.ac.be

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