

EURO DURG bulletin

No. 11

February 2002

EUROPEAN DRUG UTILIZATION
RESEARCH GROUP

Editors. This issue was prepared by the following members of the Executive Committee of EURO DURG: Morten Andersen.

European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption

ESAC is an international network of surveillance systems aiming to collect comparable and reliable antibiotic consumption data in all European Countries. The project is granted by DG/SANCO (project number 2001/SID/136) for the period November 2001 – October 2003.

During a two years period, actions will be taken to harmonise the registration of antimicrobial consumption in all European Countries. A data collection system will be developed allowing to produce comprehensive national data on cost and on volume of antibiotic consumption, in ambulatory and in hospital care. Standardised national data will be assembled in a European database for subregional comparison of antibiotic use

Additionally, the database will contain information on quality indicators of good antibiotic practice, strategies used in different European Countries to control antibiotic consumption and a reference list of ongoing projects and related articles published at the national and international level. The database will be accessible for scientists and health authorities in order to link antibiotic use to resistance patterns and to assess the impact of intervention strategies at the community and hospital level.

In order to establish a close collaboration with the *National Surveillance Institutes* and the *Community Network for the Epidemiological Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases*, an amendment to the ESAC project will be granted. The amendment will enable a strong central logistic and methodological support of the process of network development in the different participating countries. The amendment aims to assure this central support, by identifying all institutions involved in the data

collection, facilitating the communication between the different partners, guiding the process of network-building and controlling the process of data collection.

During the coming years, EURODURG will be one of the scientific organisations participating in the ESAC project. National presidents of DURG organisations will be invited to participate in the national ESAC network together with representatives of the Health Authorities, Insurance Companies and other organisations involved in the data collection system of antibiotics. One of the main tasks of the network will be to construct and update a national register of available antibiotics with the corresponding ATC/DDD classification. Based on the structure outlined in the register, the national ESAC network will then start to deliver antibiotic consumption data on a regular base.

*Monique Elseviers
R. Vander Stichele*



ISPE/EURODURG Joint Meeting Edinburgh 18-21 August 2002

The ISPE congress in 2002 will take place in Edinburgh 18-21 August. In the latest years, EURODURG has organised annual meetings in connection with the ISPE conferences when these are taking place in Europe (e.g. Barcelona in 2000 and Berlin in 1998).

The conference in Edinburgh will be another joint ISPE/EURODURG meeting and it will include one day, i.e. Tuesday 20 August, dedicated to drug utilisation studies with two sessions for oral presentations and one for a poster walk organised by EURODURG. *It will be possible to register for one day, only.* Please note that the deadline for submission of abstracts to the Edinburgh conference is 22 February 2002. Further information about the conference and abstract submission is available on the ISPE website (www.pharmacoepi.org). We hope that many EURODURG members will submit abstracts and attend the conference in Edinburgh in August!

Please note that the 2002 EURODURG general assembly also will be organised in connection with the ISPE conference in Edinburgh in August.

Marit Rønning

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption | 1 |
| • ISPE/EURODURG joint meeting, Edinburgh 2002 | 1 |
| • EURO DURG meeting, Prague 2001 | 2 |
| • EACPT congress, Odense 2001 | 3 |
| • Report from the Nominating Committee | 3 |
| • The EURO DURG Executive Committee | 3 |
| • Update on National DURGs in Europe | 4 |

Visit the EURO DURG web site
<http://www.eurodurg.org>

Integrating drug utilisation studies in a wider Europe EuroDURG meeting 2001, June 7-9, Prague, Czech Republic

The EuroDURG meeting in Prague assembled people with a scientific interest in Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Utilization. Research. The meeting handled topics in the field of drug regulation, drug policy, drug utilisation, drug information and prescribing indicators focussed on the quality of pharmacotherapy.

A total of 185 participants from 33 countries attended the meeting. Twelve countries from Central and Eastern Europe were represented, counting for 48% of participants. Additionally, 6 countries out of Europe were represented. Four countries had a participation rate of more than ten: Czech Republic (n=46), Sweden (n=20), Denmark (n=16) and Belgium (n=12).

Prelude to the meeting was the satellite ATC/DDD-course. It was a unique opportunity for a six-hour training by the staff of the WHO-Collaborating Centre of Oslo into the details and intricacies of the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification system and the definition of Defined Daily Doses (DDD).

During the two-days scientific programme six main sessions were organized. Two additional parallel sessions were devoted to free presentations, selected from more than 100 submitted abstracts. A full 2-hour poster session was organised with guided poster presentations and poster prizes, in the best tradition of EuroDURG, where posters were always given the attention they deserve.

Additionally, two workshops were organized. Workshop 1 focussed on quality indicators, using feed-back mechanisms on prescribing, in different settings and from different perspectives (government, patients, professionals). Workshop 2 presented the work of the TUPP-group on the patient Perspective. Collaborative, qualitative cross-cultural research on the use of drugs for depression and anxiety were presented.

The opening session on Friday brought us Keynote Addresses from distinguished leaders from the World Health Organisation and from EuroDURG. Although the number of people estimated to have regular access to essential drugs is increasing, roughly one third of the

world population still lacks regular access to essential drugs. Moreover, unsafe and wasteful drug use persists. The WHO is addressing these challenges using a framework of actions focussed on access to essential drugs, quality and safety of medicines and rational use of drugs. To promote rational prescribing and dispensing, WHO provides treatment guidelines for most major health problems and adopted more rigorous procedures for developing evidence-based guidelines. With support of WHO, European countries assembled to exchange information on drug use, pricing and reimbursement policy and on experience of improving the use of medicines. Further on, it was stated that the development of valid and reliable indicators of prescribing is an important task of Drug Utilisation Research (DUR). DUR will continue to make a notable contribution by focusing on the important question how drugs are actually used, what happens consequent thereto and what that can tell us about how best to use them in the future.

Session 2 handled the global future of ATC/DDD methodology and DUR. Drug utilisation research (using the ATC/DDD methodology) is a valuable tool for improving the quality of drug use and is an important priority for WHO. Knowledge and use of ATC/DDD methodology increased, also in countries outside Europe. A model for international drug utilisation statistics from various sources and various countries was presented, showing that the ATC/DDD methodology offered valuable information about the observed differences.

Session 3 focussed on the consumption of antibiotics in Europe and the related problem of antibiotic resistance. The ESAC project (European Surveillance of Antibiotic Consumption), aiming to collect harmonised, comprehensive and valid data of the utilisation of antibiotics in all European countries, was presented. A first attempt to collect antibiotic consumption data was organised by EuroDURG in 1999. Results of this study, comparing consumption patterns between different European countries, were shown and methodological issues encountered were discussed. Antibiotic resistance issues create a lot of interesting challenges for DUR as demonstrated in the other studies

presented during this session (asthma control and co-therapy, antibiotics and respiratory tract infections, exposure to antibiotics in the hospital setting, minimal dataset for the evaluation of guidelines on antibiotics).

In session 4, pharmaco-epidemiological research problems in Central and Eastern Europe were highlighted. In these countries, where market economy was only introduced recently, new skills and knowledge are needed. Particularly the accessibility of databases as a basic requirement for DUR was discussed. In the second part of the session, participants of different Central and Eastern European countries had the opportunity to present the actual situation of pharmaco-epidemiological research in their country.

In session 5, focus was on DUR in Europe with short, streamlined presentations of the national DUR systems of the different European countries. Special interest was given on the nature of the data collected, the privacy issues, the feedback mechanisms and the use of DUR data in setting priorities in health care policy. It was considered as an important task for EuroDURG to coordinate the efforts of patients, doctors, pharmacists and health care institutions. DUR needs to focus on patient outcome rather than on drug use only.

In session 6, technological innovations in health telematics were presented. These innovations will change the production processes of the independent drug information centres throughout Europe. Examples of databases, leaflets and decision support systems using IT were given from a European project (Euromedicines) and from Bosnia, Denmark and UK. It was stressed forwards that there is a need for monitoring these technological information systems carefully and to put efforts in a higher degree of harmonization and transparency.

The main conclusions of this EuroDURG meeting started from the observation that more information is needed to improve the quality of drug utilisation in Europe. The further development of databases both on medicinal products and on consumption is a basic requirement

for improvement. These databases need to be accessible at the national and the international level. The widespread implementation of the ATC/DDD methodology will form an important contribution to achieve this goal. Evidence based guidelines for the accurate utilisation of medication will further improve the quality of pharmacotherapy. Special attention needs to go to the efficient implementation of these guidelines and the organisation of feedback mechanisms in order to measure the effects.

The participants of the Prague meeting expressed their appreciation for the organisation of the meeting. They all enjoyed the beauty of Prague and the hospitality of its citizens.

Monique Elseviers

EACPT Congress Odense, Denmark 12-15 September 2001

EURO DURG participated in two sessions on 14-15 September at the EACPT congress.

The session concerning drug use in the pediatric population in Europe started with an overview of the CHILDURG project, and in the following presentations drug use among children in Eastern Europe and in the EU was covered. The wide range of methods for studying use of drugs by children was also presented, from population databases to qualitative studies.

The session about quality indicators in drug use covered topics of implementing general indicators for the quality of drug use and measuring changes in quality of drug use in intervention studies. The quality of drug treatment in two specific areas was reviewed: quality of drug use among patients entering clinical trials in cardiology and the quality aspects in NSAID use. Other subjects were indicators for the quality of asthma treatment and for adherence to guidelines. An Australian project for improving medication use in the community was also presented.

There were 29 posters in the category of drug utilisation, further 22 about rational pharmacotherapy and 4 concerning quality indicators.

Morten Andersen

Report from the Nominating Committee

Dear National DURGs in Europe, Dear individual EURO DURG members,

According to our constitution, the Chair and the Executive Committee of EURO DURG have to be elected every two years. The next elections will take place at the next EURO DURG Meeting in the joint conference with ISPE in Edinburgh, 18-21 August 2002.

Elections of the Executive Committee are prepared by the Nominating Committee, consisting of Flora Haaijer-Ruskamp, R. Vander Stichele and U. Bergman.

To this purpose, National DURGs and individual members are invited to send their proposals of candidates to the Nominating Committee by may 12 2002. Please consult your members in time. Please inform the nominating committee whether the deadline of may 12 2002 is a problem to consult your national members. In the next issue of EURO DURG Bulletin the names of the candidates for the 2002 election will be published.

When making their proposals, EURO DURG Members are invited to consider that:

1. All 11 Members of the Executive Committee (The Chair and 10 Members) have to be elected.
2. The members of the Executive committee should come from different European regions: to this regard, contacts among the National Groups belonging to the various Europeans areas (e.g. Northern, Southern, Central-Eastern Europe) are recommended, in order to put forward concerted candidates (different National Groups may agree on a common candidate).

The present executive committee will propose a change in the constitution to allow officers to run for three terms, to allow for a lagtime for re-election of one term (=two years) instead of the current two terms.

The Chair and the 10 Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the General Assembly by the delegates of each country present at the meeting on the basis of one country one vote. Members from one country appoint their delegate and make this known to the Chair at the

start of the General Assembly. Individual members have the opportunity to select one candidate to represent them.

The election shall be by secret ballot. The country delegates will receive two ballot papers, one for the election of the Chair and the other for the 10 members of the Executive Committee; on this second ballot, the delegates will be asked to rank their preferences from 1 (first choice) to 10, in order to allow a weighted outcome.

Proposals should be sent to:
Prof dr Flora M Haaijer-Ruskamp
Dept Clin Pharmacology
Ant Deusinglaan 1
9713 AV Groningen
The Netherlands
Fax: + 31-50-3632812
e-mail:
F.M.Haaijer-Ruskamp@med.rug.nl

Flora M. Haaijer-Ruskamp

EURO DURG Executive Committee

Chair

Dr. John Ferguson (United Kingdom)*

Secretary

Marit Rønning (Norway)*

Treasurer

Dr. Morten Andersen (Denmark)
Tel: +45 6550 3791
Fax: +45 6591 6089
e-mail: m-andersen@cekfo.sdu.dk

Members

Prof. Alfonso Carvajal García-Pando (Spain)
Tel: +34 983263021
Fax: +34 983423022
e-mail: carvajal@ife.uva.es

Monique Elseviers (Belgium)*

Dr. Almar Grimsson (Iceland)*

Prof. Joerg Hasford (Germany)
Tel: +49 89 709 57480
Fax: +49 89 709 57482. e-mail:
has@ibe.med.uni-muenchen.de

Lolkje T.W. de Jong-van den Berg (the Netherlands)
Tel: +31 503637576
Fax: +31 503632772
e-mail: lolkje@farm.rug.nl

Karel Nemecek (Czech Republic)
Tel: +420 221107285
Fax: +420 221107160
e-mail: karel.nemecek@op99.vzp.cz

Christer Luthman (Sweden)
Tel: +46 706637786
Fax: +46 44122101
e-mail: christer.luthman@apoteket.se

Gyöngyvér Soós (Hungary)
Tel/Fax: +36 12201253, e-mail:
soos@pharma.szote.u-szeged.hu

*Tel, fax and e-mail on page 4

**An update of
National DURGs in Europe
Chairs and/or contact persons
also to be found on our web page:
<http://www.eurodurg.org>**

ARMENIA: DURG-Armenia

Dr. Irina Kazarian
Department of Pharmacy, National Institute of Health
49/4 Komitas Avenue
Yerevan, 375051, Republic of Armenia
Tel: +374 2 227247; fax: +374 3907216
e-mail: ioannis@lx2.yerphi.am

BELGIUM: B-DURG

Monique Elseviers
Department of Nephrology-Hypertension
University Hospital Antwerp
Wilrijkstraat 10
B-2650 Edegem, Antwerpen, Belgium
Tel: +32 38213406; fax: +32 38290100
e-mail: elsevier@uia.ua.ac.be

BULGARIA: DURG-Bulgaria

Dr. Zlatka Dimitrova
Medical University – Sofia, Faculty of Pharmacy
2 Dunav Street
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria
Tel: +359 2 98026; fax: +359 2 9874
e-mail: zdimitrova@mbox.pharmfac.acad.bg

CROATIA: DURG Croatia

Dr. Vera Vlahovic Palcevski
University of Rijeka Medical School, Department of Pharmacology
Branchette 20
51000 Rijeka, Croatia
e-mail: vevlahov@inet.hr

CZECH REPUBLIC: Czech-DURG

Dr. Vladimír Biba
State Institute for Drug Control - SUKL,
Srobarova 48
100 41 Prague 10, Czech Republic
Tel: +420 2 72185710; fax: +420 2 744977
e-mail: iba@sukl.cz

DENMARK: The Danish Society for Pharmacoepidemiology

Dr. John Larsen
Clinical Pharmacology, University of Southern Denmark
Winsløwparken 19
DK-5000 Odense C, Denmark
Tel: +45 6550 3028; fax: +45 6591 6089
e-mail: j-larsen@cekfo.sdu.dk

GERMANY: Gesellschaft für Arzneimittelwundungsforschung und Arzneimittel-epidemiologie (GAA) e.V.

Prof. Dr. Gerd Glaeske
ZeS, University of Bremen
D-28209 Bremen, Germany
Fax: +49 421 218 7455
e-mail: gglaeske@zes.uni-bremen.de

GREECE: DURG GR

Dr. A. Iliopoulou
Section of Clinical Pharmacology, Dept. of Clinical Therapeutics,
Athens University. Alexandra Hospital
80 Vas Sofias Str.
115 28 Athens, Greece
Tel+fax: +30 1 7771 731
e-mail: ailliop@atlas.uoa.gr

HUNGARY: DURG-Hungary

Dr. Zsuzsanna Szepezdi
National Institute of Pharmacy
P.O. Box 450, H-1372 Budapest, Hungary
Tel: +36 1 317 7113; fax: +36 1 318 1167
e-mail: szepezdi@ogyi.hu

ICELAND: IS DURG

Almar Grimsson
AL-BAS Ltd. Health-Pharmaceuticals Consultants
Reykjavikurvegur 66, IS-220 Hafnarfjörður, Iceland
Tel:+354 555 3569; fax:+354 555 3561
e-mail: albas@itn.is

ISRAEL: ISRAEL DURG

Prof. Micha Levy, MD
Dept. of Medicine
Hadassah University Hospital
Jerusalem 91-120, Israel
Tel: +972 2 6776 449; fax: +972 2 6422 384
e-mail: rach@hassadah.org.il

ITALY: DURG-Italia

Dr. Alberto Vaccheri
University of Bologna
Department of Pharmacology
Via Imerio 48
I-40126 Bologna, Italy
Tel: +39 51 248526; fax: +39 51 248862
e-mail: vaccheri@biocfarm.unibo.it

NORWAY: DURG NO

Marit Rønning
WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology
Sven Oftedalsvei 10
N-0903 Oslo, Norway
Tel: +47 221 69810; fax: +47 221 69818
e-mail: marit.ronning@nmd.no

RUSSIA

Dr. Svetlana A. Ratchina
State Medical Academy
P.O. Box 5, Smolensk,
214019 Russia
Tel: (0812) 553401; fax: (0812) 550624
e-mail: sveta@cliph.keytown.com

SPAIN: DURG-ESPAÑA

Dr. Emilio Sanz
Clinical Pharmacology Unit, School of Medicine
University of La Laguna
E-38071 La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain
Tel: +34 922 319347; fax: +34 922 655995
e-mail: esanz@ull.es

SWEDEN: The Swedish Society for Pharmacoepidemiology

Dr. Ulf Bergman
Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Karolinska Institutet
Huddinge University Hospital
S-141 86 Huddinge, Sweden
Tel: +46 8 58 58 1196; fax: +46 8 58 58 1070
e-mail: ulf.bergman@pharmmlab.hs.sll.se

THE NETHERLANDS: NL-DURG

Dr. R. M. C. Herings
Dept. of Pharmacoepidemiology, Faculty of Pharmacy
University of Utrecht
PO Box 800082
NL-3508 TB Utrecht, The Netherlands
Tel: +31 30 253 7325; fax: +31 30 253 9166
e-mail: r.m.c.herings@far.ruu.nl

UNITED KINGDOM: DURG-UK

Dr. John Ferguson
Prescription Pricing Authority
Bridge House, 152 Pilgrim Street
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6SN, UK
Tel: +44 191 2035351; fax: +44 191 2035491
e-mail: john.ferguson@ppa.nhs.uk