

EuroDURG bulletin

No. 12

February 2002

EUROPEAN DRUG UTILIZATION RESEARCH GROUP

Editors. This issue was prepared by the following members of the Executive Committee of EuroDURG: Peter Mol, Monique Elseviers, and Robert Vander Stichele. Send copy to: p.mol@med.rug.nl

The membership of EuroDURG has given a new Executive Committee and a new president a mandate to continue with the activities of the organization, after a difficult struggle for survival in the past years. During the summer of 2002, in Edinburgh, Scotland, Euro-

Editorial

DURG was prominently present at the 17th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology. Almost 200 Drug Utilization Abstracts were presented to that meeting in a lively poster walk, and a successful joint session was held, under the enigmatic title 'Bringing epidemiology into drug utilization research', with a key-address by Jesper Hallas from Denmark.

EACPT-congress

EuroDURG will be very prominently present at the next meeting of the European Association of Clinical Pharmacology, in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 24-28, 2003.

There is a one day tutorial about pharmacoepidemiology, and drug utilization research, organised jointly by EACPT (Prof. McDevitt, UK) and EuroDURG (Prof. Hasford, Germany). In addition, there is a session organised on Quality Indicators, organised by U. Bergman, Sweden and Jesper Hallas, Denmark. Other sessions focus on rational drug use and public health, drugs and independent information, drugs and education. One prominent session will focus on antibiotic utilization.

EU-projects

EuroDURG is well represented in two

major EU-funded projects about drug utilization.

First, there is the EURO-MED-STAT project, headed by Pietro Folino, aiming to collect administrative data, utilization data and expenditure data on all medicines in the current 15 members states of the EU. Secondly there is the European Surveillance of antibiotic Consumption (ESAC), headed by Herman Goossens, aiming to collect utilization data on antibiotic consumption in more than 30 countries of the old continent, and to link these results to the data on antibiotic resistance.

National DUR groups

In the last three months, the Drug Utilization Research Group of the UK, of Germany and of Belgium held successful national meetings, and other groups will do so in the near future.

Quality indicators

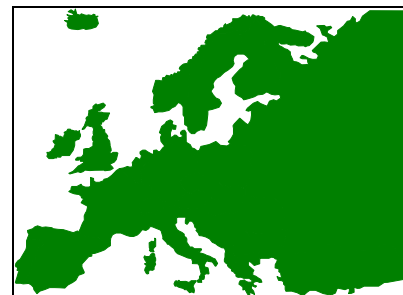
In most European countries administrative systems of continuous drug utilization monitoring are growing to maturity. In many countries, researchers and regulators are proposing quality indicators of prescribing to analyze appropriateness of prescribing and to generate feedback information for individual doctors and for quality circles.

EuroDURG, together with WHO-EURO, intends to bring these research teams together in an expert meeting, later this year, to exchange methods and experience, and to establish standards for analysis and intervention. This effort is coordinated within EuroDURG by Peter Mol (p.mol@med.rug.nl) and Prof. Morten Andersen (M-Andersen@CEFKO.sdu.dk)

Continued on page 2.

New spelling EuroDURG acronym

After some debate, the new executive committee, chose the best spelling of EURODURG to be EuroDURG. With the Euro from Europe and DURG, for Drug Utilization Research Group.



EuroDURG organization

President

Dr. R. Vander Stichele (Belgium)

Secretariat

Hanne Strøm (Norway)
WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug
Statistics Methodology
PO Box 4404 Nydalen
NO-0403 Oslo, Norway
Tel.: +47 23 40 8161;
fax: +47 23 40 8146
hanne.strom@fhi.no

Visit renewed
EuroDURG website
at
www.EuroDURG.com

(new URL: EuroDURG.com
in stead of EuroDURG.org)

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---|--------|
| • EuroDURG activities in 2003 / Editorial | p. 1-2 |
| • EuroDURG poster Award 2002 | p. 2 |
| • National DURG reports | p. 3 |
| • List of membership, privacy and practicalities | p. 3 |
| • 6 th EACPT meeting in Istanbul, June 25-28, 2003 | p. 3 |
| • Report from the Edinburgh meeting August 2002 | p. 3-4 |
| • Call for active participation | p. 5 |

Editorial, continued from page 1.

Constitutional changes

A constitutional change makes it more easy now for EuroDURG to maintain productive officers, who have served for more than 4 years on the Board. Monique Elsevier is coordinating an effort to bring a number of previous officers back as active cooperators in our society. Our small society simply cannot afford a biannual drain of manpower. See also report from annual meeting at page 3.

Pharmacovigilance, DUR and regulatory authorities

In the European Community and in the US, the regulatory authorities EMEA and FDA are expanding pharmacovigilance activities, until now focused on early detection of signals of serious adverse events, into comprehensive risk management programs. Each new drug on the market will be under closer scrutiny in the first five years, and companies will have to provide regular updates of the safety profile of their drugs. What is new is that this safety profile will have to include detailed drug utilization data. Within the regulatory authorities we may expect in the common years more cooperation between the activities of the Pharmaceutical Inspectorates (involved in drug registration and in pharmacovigilance) and the departments of social security (involved in drug reimbursement and more active in continuous drug utilization monitoring). These are promising prospects for the field of drug utilization research and an incentive to keep EuroDURG alive. Many scholars in DUR are active in different societies, but some coordination of the field remains necessary.

EUPHA

There was a Drug Utilization Workshop at the Annual Meeting of EUPHA (European Public Health Association), organized by Prof. Von Ferber and Dr. Hugh Mc Gavock, in Dresden, Germany, in November 2002.

New DUR-Handbook in 2004

The Board has expressed the wish to make a new edition by 2004 of the Drug Utilization Research Methodology Handbook, edited in 2000 by the UK-DURG. All candidate-contributors are welcome to sign up, and inform the secretariat.

Special thanks

As president of EuroDURG I would like to thank John Ferguson for his presidency of EuroDURG during the period 2000-2002. We appreciated his persistence in difficult circumstances. Additionally, I am grateful to Marit Rønning, secretary of EuroDURG for the past four years. Together with all members of the Executive committee, I appreciated her accurate actions and her clear minutes of our telephone conferences. Particularly thanks to her continuous awareness, EuroDURG was able to survive and even to organize a successful conference in Prague during the previous years.

The board invites all scholars to send in abstracts for the EACPT meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 24-28 of this year (Deadline February 28, 2003). We hope you to meet you all there. The Executive Committee will meet for a public session on Thursday, June 26, at 11.30 AM (place of venue to be determined). EuroDURG's famous informal social event will be on Friday evening.

With friendly greetings,

Robert VANDER STICHELE
President EuroDURG

EuroDURG Poster Award 2002

EuroDURG poster awards

During the 18th International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology in Edinburgh (19-21 August, 2002), 115 abstracts in the field of drug utilization research were accepted for poster presentation. EuroDURG invited presenting authors to take part in a guided poster walk, asking them to give an oral presentation of 4-5 minutes, discussion included.

Twelve chairmen, each responsible for 9 or 10 presentations, selected the best poster of their tour. Out of the 12 nominated posters (see list below), the best poster was selected. The 2002 EuroDURG poster price was awarded to poster number 13 (abstract number 237) entitled: 'Who decides which drugs to prescribe? An observational study on the first prescriber for outpatients' by Fausto Grandi et al. of the Local Health Unit, Modena, Italy. The winner will receive a free registration for the 6th Congress of the European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics that will be organized June 24-28, 2003, in Istanbul.

Monique Elseviers

Abstract	Title	First author, location
400	Measuring Use of Prescription Drugs by the Elderly: Agreement between Pharmacy Records and Self-Report	Line Guénette, Quebec, Canada
237	Who Decides Which Drugs To Prescribe? An Observational Study on the First Prescriber for Outpatients	Fausto Grandi, Modena, Italy
433	Life-Terminating Drugs Used by Belgian Physicians in End-of-Life Decisions Not Requested by Terminal Patients	Johan Bilsen, Brussels, Belgium
413	Pharmacoepidemiologic Methods To Detect Preventable Adverse Drug Events	Almut Winterstein, Gainesville, United States
198	Three Annual Campaigns Change the Volume and Mix of Antibiotic Prescribing for Respiratory Tract Infection	Judith Mackson, Sydney, Australia
150	Patterns of Lipid Lowering Drug Use after Withdrawal of Cerivastatin	Aukje Mantel-Teeuwisse, Utrecht, Netherlands
232	A Comparative Analysis of Cardiovascular Drug Utilization in the Czech Republic and United Kingdom	Kvetoslava, Gorecka, Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic
264	Highlights of a Decade of Psychotropic Practice Patterns for U.S. Youths	Julie Zito, Baltimore, United States
337	Benzodiazepine Addiction or Dependence?. Duration and Dosage Interrelationship	Carlos De las Cuevas, Tenerife, Spain
329	Utilization of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs in Finland	Arja Helin-Salmivaara, Helsinki, Finland
367	Drug Utilization Review of Celecoxib: Evidence of the Importance of Patient Recall Bias	Catherine Fitzsimon, Quebec, Canada
238	Patients' Experience of Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) and Self-Regulation of Therapy for Dyspepsia	Carlos De las Cuevas, Tenerife, Spain

List of membership, privacy and practicalities

The General Assembly of EuroDURG discussed in Edinburgh the need of a list at the European level of members of national Drug Utilization Research Groups.

(See also page 4 for a complete report on the annual EuroDURG meeting.)

Until now, membership-lists were available only at the national level. Communication between EuroDURG and the membership was always a two-step process, with letters and bulletins, first to the national representative, who needed to forward the information to the national membership. Furthermore, it was difficult to calculate the fee, owed by a national DURG to EuroDURG, as this fee was based on the number of members.

Previous proposals to change this situation were met with some skepticism because of concerns about privacy

issues.

The new Executive Committee decided in a first meeting that the organization needed such a European membership list, to facilitate communication and to make correct invoices for annual fees to the national DURGs, to ensure a minimum of financial health in EuroDURG.

The basic rules of privacy will be respected. Members who do not want their name on the list, will be removed. The list will only be used for the purposes mentioned above. The EuroDURG secretariat in Oslo (Hanne Strøm) will be the keeper of the list. The heads of the national DURG's notify their members at the next occasion, ask permission, and sent in an updated membership list before the summer. The list should include the E-mail address of the members, to enable more rapid, cheap and efficient communication.

Robert vander Stichele

National DURG meetings

Report from the Annual Meeting of the German DURG in Dresden 30.11.2002

This year's annual meeting of the German Drug Utilisation Research Group (GAA e.V.) was integrated into the annual meeting of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) in Dresden. Thus the meeting had a more international flavour than usual and it was one objective of the organisers to present the current research activities in Germany to a European audience.

J. Hasford analysed the state of drug utilisation research in Germany and stressed that there are very good data about office-based prescribing but much less good data about drug-use in hospital. (Continued on page 5.)

Announcement

EuroDURG invites you to attend the **6th Congress of the European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (EACPT)** that will be organized in **Istanbul, Turkey, from 24th to 28th of June, 2003**. The theme of the congress will be: *'European Collaboration – Towards Drug Development and Rational Drug Therapy'*. The organizers are expecting more than 1200 participants bringing together scientists involved in basic and clinical pharmacology, pharmacotherapy and drug discovery. They believe that the scientific program will be a great opportunity for colleagues all around Europe, to share and exchange knowledge and experience. The scientific programme will include plenary lectures, symposia, poster presentations, sponsored symposia, satellite meetings and enjoyable social events. Complete information is available on the website <http://www.6theacpt.org>.

EuroDURG asks your special attention for the following topics in the field of drug utilisation research:

- Course on Pharmacoepidemiology, jointly organized with EuroDURG by D. McDevitt (UK) and J. Hasford (DE), on Monday June 23rd
 - The rational use of Medicines, Thursday June 26th, 14,00-16,00
 - Quality Indicators in Drug Use, Friday June 27th, 14,30-17,00

EuroDURG kindly invites you to send in your abstracts focussed on drug utilisation research. **Deadline for abstract submission will be February 28th**. Authors of DUR abstracts, submitted under the headings *quality indicators in drug use, drug utilization* and/or *pharmacoepidemiology* and selected for poster presentation, will be invited to take part in the guided poster walk, organized by EuroDURG. A poster price will be awarded to the best poster, selected by members of the EuroDURG executive committee on the base of best abstract and best presentation.

We look forward to meeting you all in Istanbul
Executive committee of EuroDURG

Report from the EuroDURG Annual Meeting, Edinburgh, 19-22 August 2002

The general assembly was held at the Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland at August 18, 2002. 28 EuroDURG members from 12 countries attended the meeting. Joerg Hasford (Germany) was elected as chair of the meeting and Marit Rønning (Norway) as secretary

Report from the EuroDURG executive committee

This report was prepared by Marit Rønning, secretary of the 2000-2002 executive committee. Robert Vander Stichele replaced John Ferguson as chair of, the telephone, meetings of the executive committee.

Meetings held were:

- Thirteen telephone conferences of 1.5 hours were held in between the EuroDURG conference meetings.
- Annual meeting in Prague, 7-10 June 2001, during the EuroDURG conference on "Integrating drug utilization studies in wider Europe". A complete report is printed in EuroDURG bulletin no.11 (February 2002).
- EuroDURG participated in two sessions at the EACPT congress in Odense, Denmark 15-15 September 2001, covering drug use in the paediatric population in Europe and Quality indicators in drug use.

One new national group, Croatia, joined EuroDURG in spring 2001.

Two issues of the EuroDURG bulletin were published, no. 10 and 11. They can be viewed at the new web-site: www.EuroDURG.com.

EuroDURG participated in four European projects: ESAC, EURO-MED-STAT, SAR and PICK UP. (See elsewhere in this bulletin.)

The communication with the national DURG's has been somewhat problematic, to improve this some action needs to be taken. (See also elsewhere in this bulletin) The executive committee also prepared a proposal for changing the constitution.

Relation with National DURG's

The main communication between the EuroDURG executive committee and the national EuroDURG members has been via the national DURG groups. The committee has experienced some difficulties in this communication. The possibility of providing the executive committee with updated lists (names and e-mail addresses) of national members was discussed. It was agreed that

the next Executive Committee would formulate a request to the national groups, to be discussed by the national groups and then reported back to the Committee. If the national groups agree to provide annually updated e-mail lists, the secretariat of the executive committee will be responsible for handling the lists, with respect of the legal provisions of privacy.

Financial Report

Morten Andersen presented the financial report. The report was approved with the following comments:

- It was considered important that the Executive Committee on a regular basis (in January each year) send out invoices for the annual fees to all the national groups.
- The executive committee was asked to follow the procedures given in the constitution and consider exclusion of members who do not fulfill their financial obligations.

Proposal for a change in the constitution

The executive committee had proposed a change in the constitution regarding election of the executive committee, i.e. to allow re-election of members of the committee for more than two consecutive terms (except for the re-election of chair, vice chair and scientific secretary). The second proposal was to except the chair from the principle of only one representative from each country serving on the committee. The proposals had been distributed to all national groups in June 2002. The background for the proposal was to clarify the situation, since the current version of the constitution allows some interpretation whether re-election of an executive committee member after two terms is allowed or not. EuroDURG has experienced considerable problems in recruiting officers to the positions, and it seems reasonable to allow re-election even after two terms for members with no office and for the offices of secretary and treasurer.

The general assembly agreed (with 11 country votes, one abstained from voting) to the following changes in the constitution:

The wording of point 10, 2nd paragraph, 3rd sentence shall be:

- Members who have served in one of the following offices (chair, vice-chair or scientific secretary) for two consecutive terms, i.e. four years, shall not be eligible for re-election in the office they have held, for the following two terms, i.e. four years.

The wording of point 8, 2b under Functions of the General Assembly shall be:

There is not more than one representative (does not apply to the chairperson) from each country serving on the committee.

Election of Executive Committee

The nominating committee consisting of Flora M. Haaijer-Ruskamp, R. Vander Stichele and U. Bergman had received 13 candidates for the new executive committee (see bulletin no.12) Dr. R. Vander Stichele as nominee for the chair was unanimously chosen, by the 12 country-representatives

The following 10 candidates were elected as members of the executive-committee for 2002-2004:

Monique Elseviers (Belgium)

Vera Vlahovic-Palcevski (Croatia)

John Larsen (Denmark)

Svetlana Ratchina (Russia)

Alfonso Carvajal (Spain)

Christer Luthman (Sweden)

Joerg Hasford (Germany)

Hanne Strøm (Norway)

Peter Mol (The Netherlands)

Stephen Chapman (UK)

Election nominating committee 2004

The following three members, leaving the executive committee, were elected to the next nominating committee by acclamation: Lolkje de Jong-van den Berg (The Netherlands), Morten Andersen (Denmark) and Marit Rønning (Norway).

Future meetings

Separate EuroDURG meetings versus joint meetings with other societies were again discussed. The importance of having separate meetings from time to time was emphasized. It was agreed to try to organize a separate meeting in 2004 or 2005. Till then, joint meetings or satellite meetings with EACPT and ISPE will be organ-

ised. The new chair encouraged the countries to organise national meetings.

Marit Rønning, Hanne Strøm, Peter Mol

Calling for active participation of ex-members of the EuroDURG Executive Committee

Call for active participation

The members of the Executive Committee (ExCo) of EuroDURG regret that previous members, after leaving the ExCo, lost contact with EuroDURG.

During the meeting in Edinburgh last year, it was decided to offer former ExCo members the opportunity to remain actively involved in the EuroDURG activities. First, we planned to keep former ExCos informed about the actual EuroDURG activities by sending a summary of the minutes of our telephone meetings. Second, we want to invite them to participate in the activities of our special interest groups (SIGs): the applicant country SIG and the Quality Indicators SIG. The applicant country SIG aims to assemble all people interested in DUR activities of applicant countries and to focus on the specific problems encountered. The Quality Indicator SIG will start his activities by organizing an international meeting aiming to bring together all European groups involved in the development of quality indicators. Third, former ExCos will be invited to become actively involved in the preparation of a new edition of the 'Handbook of Drug Use Research Methodology',

planned to be ready for publication in 2004.

We hope to welcome former ExCo members again amongst the active EuroDURG members.

Monique Elseviers

National DURG meetings

Continued from page 3.

In addition, there is a need for more controlled intervention studies. F.M. Haaijer-Ruskamp reported the rather unsatisfactory results by estimating asthma prevalence on the basis of antiasthmatic drug consumption. A similar attempt to estimate disease prevalence and outcomes based on claims data was presented by a study group from Berlin (B. Häussler et al.). J. Hallas from Denmark demonstrated the various ways prescription data can be analysed and the potential impact on health care.

A major topic of the afternoon session was to describe and evaluate the different programmes and strategies to analyse prescribing patterns and habits, which have been developed in Germany in recent years. These included PharmPro, actrapid and GAMSi of the Local Health Care Fund, PLATO of the Medical Review board of the Statutory Health Insurance and Ifap of the National Association of GPs. There were submitted paper and poster sessions too. The meeting was well attended and the discussions were lively. The program and some of the presentations are available at the web site: http://www.public-health.tu-dresden.de/eupha_default.asp

VISIT THE EuroDURG WEBSITE

<http://www.EuroDURG.com/>

- Read our constitution
- Read the back issues of the bulletins
- Read our mission statement
- Find updated addresses of board members
- Find out the latest about upcoming congresses

EuroDURG executive committee 2002-2004

Chair

Dr. R. Vander Stichele (Belgium)
Heymans Institute of Pharmacology
Ghent University
De Pintelaan, 185
B-9000 Gent Belgium
+32 9 226 98 08

Robert.VanderStichele@rug.ac.be

Secretary

Hanne Strøm (Norway)
WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug
Statistics Methodology
PO Box 4404 Nydalen
NO-0403 Oslo, Norway
Tel.: +47 23 40 8161;
fax: +47 23 40 8146

hanne.strom@fhi.no

Treasurer

Dr. John Larsen (Denmark)*

Members

Dr. Christer Luthman (Sweden)
Apoteket Svanen
Box 71, S-29121 Kristianstad
+ 46 706637786

christer.luthman@apoteket.se

Prof. Dr. Joerg Hasford (Germany)
Pharmacology Research Group
Department of IBE
Ludwig-Maximilians-University
Marchioninstr. 15, D-81377 Munich
+49 89 70954780

has@ibe.med.unimuenche.de

Dr. Monique Elseviers (Belgium)*

Peter Mol, Mpharm (the Netherlands)
University Groningen
Department of Clinical Pharmacology
P.O.Box 196, 9700 AD Groningen
+31 50 3611816

p.mol@med.rug.nl

Dr. Vera Vlahovic Palcevski (Croatia)*

Prof. Dr. Stephen Chapman (UK)*

*Phone, fax and e-mail found on the last page.

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

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: joannis@1x2.yerphi.am

BELGIUM: B-DURG

Monique Elseviers
Department of Nephrology_Hypertension
University Hospital Antwerp
Wilrijkstraat 102650 Edegem, Antwerpen
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: Croatia-DURG

Vera Vlahovic Palcevski
University of Rijeka Medical School
Dept. of Pharmacology
Brace Bracnhetta 20
5100 Rijeka
e-mail: Vevlahov@inet.hr

CZECH REPUBLIC: Czech-DURG

Dr. Petr Dvorak
State Institute for Drug Control - SUKL,
Srobarova 48
100 41 Prague 10, Czech Republic
e-mail: pdvorak@sukl.cz

DENMARK: The Danish Society for Pharmacoepidemiology

Dr. John Larsen
Clinical Pharmacology, University of Southern Denmark
Winslowparken 19
DK-5000 Odense C, Denmark
e-mail: j-larsen@cekfo.sdu.dk

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

Dr. Gerd Glaeske
Zes, University of Bremen
Parkalle 39
28209 Bremen
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: ailiop@atlas.uoa.gr

HUNGARY: DURG-Hungary

Dr. Zsuzsanna Szepezdi
National Institute of Pharmacy
Zrinyi u.3., 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

Anna Birna Almarsdottir
c/o Almar Grimsson
Al-BAS ltd Health-Pharmaceuticals Consultants
Reykjavikurvegur 66
220 Hafnarfjörður
e-mail: annab@decode.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

THE NETHERLANDS: NL-DURG

Prof. Dr. Toine Egberts
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: a.c.g.egberts@pharm.uu.nl

NORWAY: DURG NO

Kari Furu
Norwegian Institute for Public Health
Division for Epidemiology
Postboks 4404 Nydalen
0403 Oslo
e-mail: kari.furu@fhi.no

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: essanz@ull.es

RUSSIA

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

SWEDEN: The Swedish Society for Pharmacoepidemiology

Prof. Dr. Ulf Bergman
Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Karolinska Institutet
Huddinge University Hospital
S-141 86 Huddinge, Sweden
e-mail: ulf.bergman@hs.se

UNITED KINGDOM: DURG-UK

Prof. Dr. Steve Chapman
Department of Medicines
University of Keele
Staffordshire ST5 5BG, Keele
e-mail: s.r.chapman@keele.ac.uk