

EuroDURG bulletin

No. 13

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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@apoth.azg.nl

The Chairs' message

**Dear Chairs of National DURGs
Dear DURG members**

This Bulletin intends particularly to inform you all about the EuroDURG involvement in the ISPE meeting that will be organised in Bordeaux, August 22-25, 2004. Please keep in mind that **the deadline for abstract submission is February 20th!**

*Call for abstracts for
ICPE Bordeaux 2004,
see page 3*

Most members of the Executive Committee will be involved in the abstract review process and we hope that a large number of high quality DUR studies for presentation in Bordeaux will make it through the selection procedure. The special EuroDURG Tuesday of the conference will focus on the validity assessment of drug consumption data and on quality indicators of drug prescription.

The latter will be the special interest topic of EuroDURG for the year 2004. In May of this year, specialists in the field of prescribing quality indicators will assemble in Brussels for a two days workshop,

sponsored by WHO and the Belgian Health Organisation RIZIV. Preparation started a few months ago at the University of Groningen with an in-depth literature search aiming to identify all key researchers in this field. Summary and conclusions of the workshop will be presented in Bordeaux.

For our future activities, it was with great pleasure that the EuroDURG board accepted the invitation of UK DURG to organise a joint meeting in June 2005. We are aware about the need of our members to find a specialized audience to present their DUR work at the European level. Four years after our meeting in Prague, we will be able to offer this opportunity again next year in Northern Ireland.

In the mean time, we hope you will join us already this summer in Bordeaux. Please start now to prepare your DUR abstract and do not miss the deadline for submission!

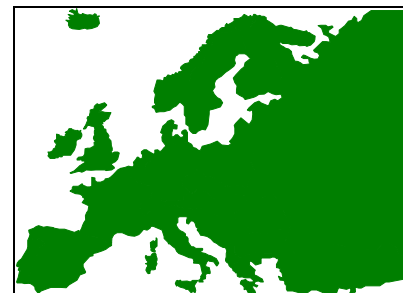
Robert Vander Stichele
EuroDURG Chair

Quality Indicators

*EuroDURG Quality Indicator Meeting (DURQUIM)
May 13-15, 2004
Brussels*

EuroDURG intends to bring together researchers and policymakers in the field of prescribing quality indicators. The meeting will focus on exchanging experiences with developing, validating and using prescribing quality indicators. At the EuroDURG general assembly at the ISPE conference in Edinburgh 2002 the intention to organize a meeting on quality indicators is declared. This intention is further worked out at the 2003 EACPT conference in Istanbul.

Continued on page 2.



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*Visit renewed
EuroDURG website
at
www.EuroDURG.com*

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

**case-sensitive*

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Quality Indicators (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Funding, from WHO and RIZIV (Belgian Health Organization), has made it possible to prepare a meeting for up to 40 participants. The scientific preparation is taken up by a workgroup at the university of Groningen, the Netherlands under supervision of Prof. F.M. Haaijer-Ruskamp. This group will prepare a discussion paper for the invitees of the workshop and will lay down the results of the meeting in a review paper.

EuroDURG has chosen to focus on quality indicators, as worldwide attention is being paid to quality assessment and improvement of health care. Policy makers, as well as health care professionals and the general public demand reliable and meaningful information on the quality of health care. With the majority of doctor-patient encounters resulting in a prescription, particular attention has been paid to prescribing indicators. Prescribing data is relatively easily accessible and to date various indicators have been used for identifying problems, for monitoring change and to provide feedback data to prescribers in several countries, for example the US, Australia, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium and the Netherlands. However, there is still considerable debate about the usefulness, reliability and validity of the different indicators. Little collaboration between countries leads to a lack of consensus in Europe on criteria of measuring prescribing quality.

In short there is a need for bringing together experts in Europe who will develop a set of recommendations for the development of indicators of prescribing quality and the criteria that have to be met. EuroDURG provides a good network to enable such a meeting.

The workshop has set the following objectives:

- To present a set of recommendations for the de-

velopment of indicators of prescribing quality and the criteria that have to be met.

- A second objective will be to gain insight in what data sources are available and what sources do we still need.

But, we need your help!

Already a number of researchers throughout Europe have been invited. They have been selected from publications in the international literature, and through the EuroDURG-network. Nevertheless, we still would like to identify additional workers in the field of quality indicators, either researchers or policymakers in your region.

Do you know people who we should approach for the meeting, please forward their names to us before the end of February 2004.

Even better, ask these persons to approach us if they are interested to attend the meeting.

Peter Mol, project-leader EuroDURG QI meeting

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Membership fees Message from the treasurer

Attention to all national EuroDURG contact persons:

Membership fees.

As you will all be aware, an institution like the EuroDURG cannot be maintained without incoming membership fees. If too many members fail to pay, EuroDURG may even have to shut down its activities as a consequence. Calls for payment of

MEMBERSHIP FEE STATUS FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AS OF 31.12.2003

COUNTRY	YEARS DUE	Call for payment sent	Paid
Armenia	2000-2001-2002-2003	01.05.03	
Belgium	2001-2002-2003	01.05.03 / 17.07.03	
Bulgaria	2000-2001-2002-2003	01.05.03	
Croatia	2001-2002-2003	01.05.03	
Czech Republic	2003	14.04.03	03.12.03
Denmark	2003	01.05.03	13.05.03
Germany	2002-2003	01.05.03	03.12.03
Greece	2000-2001-2002-2003	01.05.03	
Hungary	2001-2002-2003	01.05.03 / 17.07.03	07.10.03
Iceland	1999-2000-2001-2002-2003	01.05.03 / 22.05.03	
Israel	2003	01.05.03	
Italy	2001-2002-2003	01.05.03	
The Netherlands	2000-2001-2002-2003	*	
United Kingdom	2001-2002-2003	*	
Norway	2003	01.05.03	13.06.03
Sweden	2003	01.05.03	
Russia	2002-2003	01.05.03	
Spain	2001-2002-2003	01.05.03	

* Membership fee status for The Netherlands and United Kingdom still has to be sorted out.

fees containing a list of years due for each individual country were sent to the contact person of each country May 1st 2003 (except for The Netherlands and United Kingdom as specific conditions involved for these countries still have to be sorted out). Unfortunately, very few contributions have entered our bank account on Tenerife.

Within the next few months, calls for payment of fees covering 2004 – and previous years where

appropriate – shall be sent to the contact persons. Unfortunately regular invoices cannot be sent out, as the number of members in each country remains unknown to us. Therefore, we have to rely on this information given by you in each case. If you as an elected contact person are not in charge of your national DURG's finances, please, hand over the call for membership fees to the person who is. Also, if you have changed your address,

please, inform our secretary Hanne Ström.

Note that - according to the EuroDURG constitution - members who fail to pay their membership fees may be excluded!

Below, you will find a list of members and their membership fee status as of December 31st 2003.

John Larsen,
Treasurer EuroDURG

Announcement

International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology and Therapeutic Risk Management

The International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology (ISPE) will organize the 20th International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology and Therapeutic Risk Management in Bordeaux, from Sunday 22nd to Wednesday 25th of August, 2004.

ISPE conferences are alternating organised in the States and in Europe. It is already for the fourth time that EuroDURG will participate in the ISPE conference when this conference is taking place in Europe. Previously, this was the case in Berlin (1998), Barcelona (2000) and Edinburgh (2002). Detailed information of the symposium and instructions for abstract submission are available at the ISPE website

www.pharmacoepi.org

Tuesday August 24: EuroDURG day

The conference in Bordeaux will be again a joint ISPE/EuroDURG meeting with one special day, i.e. Tuesday 24th, dedicated to drug utilisation studies. In the morning, a EuroDURG/ISPE Plenary session will be organised handling two hot topics in the field of drug utilisation research. First, the validity of drug consumption data expressed in volume and expenditure will be discussed. Second, recent developments in the use of quality indicators for drug consumption and personalized prescriber feedback will be highlighted. During the afternoon sessions, a special symposium will be dedicated to each of these topics with some guest speakers and oral presentations of selected DUR abstracts in the same field.

EuroDURG guided poster walk

At lunchtime of the same day, a EuroDURG guided poster walk will be organized. Authors of abstracts selected for the DUR poster presentation of Tuesday, will be invited to give a short oral presentation at their poster site. EuroDURG will grant a 'Best Poster Award', offering the winner free registration for the UK DURG-EuroDURG meeting in Northern Ireland in 2005 (see further in this bulletin).

Call for abstracts

The deadline for abstract submission is **Friday, February 20, 2004**. Please visit the ISPE website www.pharmacoepi.org for detailed instructions and for online submission. To facilitate the selection of DUR abstracts, please register your abstract under the heading '**Prescribing and Utilisation**'.

EuroDURG general assembly

Please note that the 2004 general assembly of EuroDURG will also be organised in connection with the ISPE conference in Bordeaux. Detailed information for the election of the president and the members of the Executive Committee can be found in the letter of the nominating committee in this bulletin.

Call for attendance

EuroDURG invites the members of all national DUR groups and all other scientists involved in drug utilisation and quality indicators research to come to the Conference in Bordeaux. The 20th ICPE Conference will offer you the unique opportunity of 2004 to meet colleagues, to present your research and to discuss the results. We look forward to meeting you all in Bordeaux!!!

**UK DURG and
EuroDURG
meeting 2005**

Professor Hugh McGavock from the University of Ulster and former Chairman of UK DURG offered to host and organise a joint UK DURG and EuroDURG meeting at the University of Ulster, around the end of June 2005. The campus is located in a very pleasant part of Northern Ireland, near the coast and about 40 miles from Belfast international airport. Four years after the meeting in Prague, this will be a new opportunity for EuroDURG to be involved in the organisation of a meeting completely dedicated to drug utilisation research. It was hence with great pleasure that the executive committee approved the EuroDURG involvement.

**Applicant
countries**

New national groups

EuroDURG is a pan European association with a mission to promote drug utilization research as a means to improve drug use. It encourages communication and cooperation between scientists interested in drug utilization and pharmacoepidemiology and encourages the adoption of the standard international drug use research methodology.

The Executive Committee has the incentive to help establishment of national DURGs in the countries where it still does not exist, especially in the newly formed and CEE countries. The aim is to adopt these countries as full EuroDURG members and involve them in the EU projects.

The first step was to send out a questionnaire to possibly interested persons (through personal contacts)

in different countries about their expectations and needs.

In that sense, contact persons from countries with no national DURG up to now were asked how can EuroDURG contribute to the foundation of a national DURG (e.g. co-organization of a local/national meeting, providing written information etc.), and to suggest names of people who would be interested and should be contacted by EuroDURG.

Persons from countries with an existing national DURG were asked whether the support of EuroDURG would help strengthening the situation of their DURG, what kind of support is needed the most (e.g. co-organization of local/regional meetings etc.), and which issues of DUR are the most relevant aims in their country.

We hope to be able to report about the results of this initiative in the next issue of the Bulletin!

**EuroDURG general
assembly in Bordaux,
August 2004**

The EuroDURG general assembly will be held on Monday 23 August from 18:00 to 19:00 at the venue of the ISPE conference. An important issue will be the election of the Executive Committee. See information from the Nominating Committee. Preliminary **agenda** of the general assembly:

1. Election of chair and secretary for the meeting
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Report of the EuroDURG Executive Committee 2002-2004
4. Financial Report
5. Election of EuroDURG executive committee 2004-2006
6. Election of nominating committee 2006
7. Closing remarks from the chair

**Information
from the nominating
committee**

**Dear National DURGs in Europe,
Dear individual EuroDURG
members,**

According to our constitution, the Chair and the Executive Committee of EuroDURG have to be elected every two years. The next elections will take place at the next EuroDURG Meeting in Bordeaux, August 2004.

Elections of the Executive Committee are prepared by a Nominating Committee, consisting of Marit Rønning, Norway, Morten Andersen, Denmark and Lolkje T.W. de Jong-van den Berg, the Netherlands.

To this purpose, National DURGs and individual members are invited to send their proposals of candidates to the Nominating Committee within the deadline of May 10th 2004. The names of the candidates for the 2004 election will be published on the EuroDURG website (www.eurodurg.com) and sent out to all national chairs.

When making their proposals, EuroDURG 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 10 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).

- 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. This has no implications for any of the present members of the executive committee.

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.

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:

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**Postgraduate Course
on antimicrobial
prescribing,
Czech Rep.
April 2004**

An ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course is organized from 29th April - 1May2004 at Pruhonice, Czech Republic. The title of the course is "Measuring, Auditing and Improving Antimicrobial prescribing." Many of the EuroDURG researchers have some affiliation with the subject, so if you are interested, contact:

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**EuroDURG
executive committee
2002-2004**

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**An update of National
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on our web page:
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