

## Upcoming events

- ⇒ 5-8 August 2014  
International Social Pharmacy Workshop, Boston, USA
- ⇒ 31 August—4 September 2014. 74th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Bangkok, Thailand
- ⇒ 22-24 October 2014. ESCP Symposium Copenhagen, Denmark - Patient Safety - Bridging the Gaps
- ⇒ 4-7 February 2015. PCNE Working Conference, Mechelen, Belgium - Pharmaceutical Care V 2.0
- ⇒ 16-17 April 2015. HSRPP conference,, Belfast, N.Ireland. - Coming of age: Rigour in pharmacy practice research

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## Chairpersons' Editorial

Dear all,

Before the academic holidays, we are all extremely busy. Apart from the normal work, there now are exams, and Master and Doctors theses that need to be scrutinised. And for those of us who do not work in academia, there are nevertheless the upcoming school holidays with their family obligations.

Busy? Yes. I now also have changed position in Pharmakon. With the end of the era of Hanne Herborg, I am now director of Research and Development. It has been a privilege to work with, and learn from Hanne, and to follow her academic and intellectual activities.

Hanne Herborg was not only important in Pharmakon, but also one of the founding members of PCNE, and at the same time very important in the field of professional development within FIP, the International Pharmaceutical Federation.

FIP is an important political power in the International pharmaceutical and healthcare world. We are happy that PCNE can be an official observer of FIP. This will make it easier to follow and influence the international developments around pharmaceutical care. And not only the research, but especially the implementation.

Another important change can be seen on European level. Europharm now is developing a partnership with the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union, PGEU, in an open and constructive consultation. The combination of an implementation oriented organisation and the political representation of pharmacy on a European level is certainly a lucky one.

Let us hope that with our pharmaceutical care related research, we can strengthen the scientific basis under their decisions.

**Charlotte Rossing, Chairperson PCNE**



Charlotte Rossing

## A new review of reviews

Cochrane just published a review of reviews on the effectiveness of (basically) pharmaceutical care, with the title 'Interventions to improve safe and effective medicines use by consumers: an overview of systematic reviews'. It is published in The Cochrane Library 2014, Issue 4

This update of work of 2011 includes 75 reviews. The authors find it still difficult to draw conclusions, since the research is distributed across many diseases, pop-

ulations and settings.

Looking across reviews, for most outcomes, medicines self-monitoring and self-management programmes appear generally effective to improve medicines use, adherence, adverse events and clinical outcomes; and to reduce mortality in people self-managing antithrombotic-therapy. However, some participants were unable to complete these interventions, suggesting they may not be suitable for everyone.

# Malta VWS Pictures



The Malta organising committee





Dr. Martina Teichert, representing KNMP

# New members

Working  
Conference  
2015

## The KNMP, Royal Dutch Association for the Advancement of Pharmacy

During the Symposium on Malta, I had the pleasure of presenting the work of KNMP at the PCNE General Assembly, and at this occasion we also became a member of PCNE.

KNMP is the Royal Dutch pharmacist association. In the Netherlands, KNMP is responsible for the intrinsic quality of pharmaceutical care in alignment with social and societal developments. Among others, KNMP develops guidelines that describe the prerequisites and processes of pharmaceutical care for different diseases and major care activities such as, for instance, medication reviews. The scientific advisors of the KNMP have a research line at the Radboud University in Nijmegen on the quality of pharmaceutical care and the advancement of implementation of the guidelines. For a successful development, more evidence on the effectivity of the recommendations in the guidelines is needed - but hardly available at present. For the pharmacists' remuneration of pharmaceutical care, cost effectiveness studies are also badly needed.

In order to stimulate and coordinate pharmacy practice research, in 2014 the KNMP made a call for research proposals on the topics of medication review, adherence, and clinical rules. The scientific advisory board of the KNMP judged the proposals and assessed if they would be helpful to answer the burning questions of the association, and if the methodological quality was good enough. At present a number of research proposals received funding, and these studies are expected to generate evidence for the effectiveness of pharmaceutical care. Furthermore this funding policy is meant to stimulate more community pharmacists to assist in performing pharmaceutical care research, hopefully also leading to more PhDs among Dutch community pharmacists.

The studies carried out address following topics:

- Effective medication surveillance with patient information on renal function, electrolyte measurements and pharmacogenetics
- Development and validation of quality indicators
- The role of automatised individualised drug dispensing systems in elderly patients on patient safety
- (Cost) effectiveness of medication reviews
- Causes for adherence problems and possible solutions through the provision of pharmaceutical care.

We hope to be able to present the results soon and would be happy to share them then with the PCNE members too!

## Working Conference 2015 in Mechelen

Board and Organising Committee of the 2015 Working Conference have now decided! The conference will be held in a former Lamot brewery in Mechelen, Belgium, on 4-5-6 February 2015.

Lamot is situated in the center of Mechelen. Mechelen can be easily reached by train, also from Brussels Airport. Brussels is a hub for many cheaper carriers.

**Reserve 4-6 February 2015 in your diary!**

And keep an eye on [www.pcne.org](http://www.pcne.org) for further details.



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## Medicines Use Review Pilot Project in Ireland A feasibility Study

In 2012, a feasibility study regarding medicines use review was conducted in Ireland by Dr. Martin Henman and co-workers. A report about this study is now available for PCNE members. The conclusions about the interprofessional cooperation seems especially important. It reads:

The form of collaborative MUR trialled in this project could be developed and implemented across Primary Care in Ireland. Experience in other countries has shown that the most important element for successful delivery is the quality and extent of collaboration between pharmacists and GPs. The quality of the relationship that develops will depend on common goals, clear procedures and regular interaction. In particular the quality of the MUR documentation provided by pharmacists to GPs would have to be consistently high and the communication from GPs to pharmacists after their review of referred patients would have to be of a similar standard. These elements need to be supported by the health service via a pragmatic framework and by the public acknowledgment of the importance of collaboration. This will create the conditions in which the health care professionals can work together and develop trust and confidence in each other. When professionals collaborate in this area they identify and resolve more medicines-related problems.

The authors of the report also conclude that the patient/public also must support the process. They state:

Medicines use in Primary Care is the result of collaboration between patients, prescribers and pharmacists in which patients are the final decision-makers and the person who experiences the outcomes. Positive or at least cooperative relationships between the three facilitate appropriate communication and interaction. Patients want to work with those who provide their health care and if this care is supposed to be shared or collaborative care between two providers they will be disconcerted if they perceive that either or both of them are uncommitted to that type of care process. Many of the interventions that follow from MUR can only be fully implemented with patient engagement.

If you want to know more about this project, please contact Dr. Martin Henman at Trinity College, Dublin. Email: [mhenman@tcd.ie](mailto:mhenman@tcd.ie)

## PCNE ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Newsletter support

If you want to inform the PCNE members about your activities, send us a release for the Newsletter! Please note that this Newsletter is also read by non-members.

### New website

In order to facilitate conference registration and abstract submission, the PCNE website will be

reconstructed. The members-only pages and databases will be adapted. More information will follow.

### Member Addresses

As PCNE member, you should have received a request to check your address and other data in the membership list. Please inform the secretariat if any data are incorrect and need to be adapted as soon as possible.