

PHARMACEUTICAL CARE
NETWORK EUROPE

UPCOMING

⇒ **23-25 October 2019.** 48th ESCP Symposium: The Digital Revolution: Supporting clinical pharmacy through e-health, digital support systems, big data and more. *Ljubljana, Slovenia*

⇒ **23-25 October 2019.** FIP FIP Regional Conference for the European Region: Delivering primary health care: Pharmacists taking the next leap forward. *Ankara, Turkey*

⇒ **21-23 November 2020.** Espacomp Conference— Digital Health and Patient Empowerment. *Porto, Portugal*

⇒ **7-8 February 2020.** PCNE Working Symposium. *Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands*

⇒ **22-27th May 2020.** 7th FIP Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress. *Montreal, Canada*

⇒ **For an up-to-date list: see the PCNE Wiki !!**



IN THIS
ISSUE

Editorial	1
4th International PPRI conference	2
PhC and heart failure	2
Inaugural Lecture Mitja Kos	3
New board election procedure	3
PCNE Mentoring	4
PCNE News	4

PCNE Newsletter

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SEPTEMBER 2019

Chairperson's editorial

Serve on the board!

As a pharmacist you strive to serve your patients in the best possible way by helping them to get the optimal benefit of their medication. As part of a professional network you have another opportunity to use your talents in the best way.

When applying for PCNE membership we all expressed to be willing 'to serve' on the board. When I signed the membership application, I found this term a bit funny. After all, the strict testing of my application made me feel very humble, whereas the (board) members were in charge and looked powerful. It only became clear to me that being a board member meant first of all service to PCNE when I entered the board myself. This is when the curtain is lifted for you and reveals the machine behind. This consists of lots and lots of different wheels that have to interlock smoothly, engaging our members, have an annual symposium, share information via the website and Newsletter, stimulate working groups, react to actual problems, implement our vision and so on and on. It takes a lot of hands to 'support and connect' researchers, exchange ideas and experiences, to train and mentor young researchers – according to our vision.

To this, the PCNE board consists of six persons: two being the actual chair and secretary, two who are going to take up the positions in the future, and two who already fulfilled these functions. Each of these 'stages' lasts two years and enables the combination of new spirit with experience.

And it is not for nothing that we have Foppe van Mil as a professionally secretary – or better say – as a dedicated servant of PCNE. The last 15 years Foppe supported many board members as the continuing factor, the beating heart of and for PCNE. This motor moves our network forward according to our vision. It engages students, makes them realize what you can learn from peers, mentors, role models and international connections. It makes us achieve milestones by publications on classifications, definitions and research in the name of PCNE. It also makes us friends beyond being professionals.

Every two years it is time for two board members to step down and two new ones to step up. This means that Mitja Kos and Nejc Horvat will leave the board in February 2020. Thus PCNE is looking for two new board members to join Ema Paulino, Isabelle Arnet, Jacqueline Hugtenburg en myself in 'serving' PCNE.

Are you interested? If you want to know more, please contact us. If you want to apply, please send a letter of interest before the 8th of November to info@pcne.org.

Martina Teichert, PCNE Chairperson



4th International PPRI conference

The WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies organises the 4th international PPRI Conference, entitled '**Medicines access challenge - The value of pricing and reimbursement policies**', held in Vienna on 23-24 October 2019.

Access to medicines still remains a challenge in the twenty-first century, and policy-makers aim to balance the partially conflicting objectives of providing access to medicines, containing costs and rewarding innovation in pharmaceutical development. In recent years, some very expensive medicines have entered the markets, putting the long-term financial sustainability of health systems at risk. In this context, the design of the pricing and reimbursement policies is key: innovative approaches are needed to tackle the medicine access challenge!

The conference aims to bring together thought leaders from around the globe to discuss 'burning' issues in pricing and reimbursement policies of medicines - both from a global as well as European perspective. Current challenges and opportunities will be discussed, in particular limitations and improvement of current policies and innovative options for the future.

In order to foster the debate on equitable access to affordable and cost-effective medicines, the following perspectives will be discussed at the conference:

Strand 1: Local challenges, global learnings? What can other countries learn from best-practice examples in the field of pricing and reimbursement of medicines?

Strand 2: 'Fake' prices - Are price surveys still useful? The value of list prices against the backdrop of external price referencing and managed entry agreements.

Strand 3: Fix the future? Innovative policy options need to be developed, agreed upon and implemented.



For further information on the Conference please visit the Conference Website: <https://ppri.goeg.at/ppriconference2019>

Pharmaceutical care provided in community pharmacy has a positive impact on drug adherence and quality of life in heart failure patients

A randomized controlled trial study recently published in the European Journal of Heart Failure¹ has concluded that elderly patients with heart failure who see a pharmacist once a week are more likely to take their prescribed medication and be active in daily life. The PHARM-CHF trial included a total of 237 ambulatory chronic heart failure patients aged 60 years and older, who were randomly allocated to usual care or a pharmacy intervention and followed-up for a median of two years². The intervention included an initial medication review and follow-up visits every 8–10 days to discuss adherence and monitor symptoms, blood pressure and pulse rate. Baseline medication adherence was calculated over a 183-day period prior to randomization. Medication was provided in a pillbox, and

pharmacists' interventions included updating the medication plan and referrals to the physician, when needed. Compared to usual care, the intervention resulted in a significant 5.7% absolute increase in collection of heart-failure medication (measured as proportion of days covered by the dispensed amounts (PDC)). The proportion of patients classified as adherent increased (OR 2.9, 95% CI 1.4–5.9, $P = 0.005$), and quality of life also improved after 2 years (adjusted difference in Minnesota Living with Heart Failure Questionnaire scores -7.8 points (-14.5 to -1.1 ; $P = 0.02$), compared to usual care. The intervention did not affect the safety endpoints of hospitalizations or deaths.

References

- Schulz M, Griese-Mammen N, Anker SD et al. Pharmacy-based interdisciplinary intervention for patients with chronic heart failure: results of the PHARM-CHF randomized controlled trial. *Eur J Heart Fail.* 2019; [DOI: 10.1002/ejhf.1503].
- Laufs U, Griese-Mammen N, Krueger K, et al. PHARMacy-based interdisciplinary program for patients with Chronic Heart Failure (PHARM-CHF): rationale and design of a randomized controlled trial, and results of the pilot study. *Eur J Heart Fail.* 2018;20:1350–1359.

Pharmaceutical
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Conference

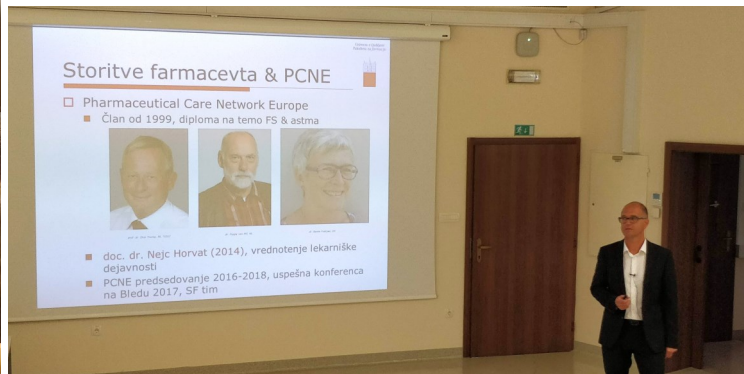
Pharmaceutical
care in
Heart
failure

Inaugural Lecture Mitja Kos

Inaugural lecture Prof. Mitja Kos



On the 27th of August 2019, current PCNE board member and past PCNE chairman Mitja Kos has given his inaugural lecture before as full professor at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Pharmacy. The lecture was entitled "Social Pharmacy". He outlined key areas of research at the Department of Social Pharmacy that he chairs: phar-



macoepidemiology, drug-related problems, pharmaceutical care, medication review, and health technology assessment. He also mentioned and thanked all the excellent people who helped him along his way and with whom he worked, including some PCNE founding members. Everyone at the PCNE sincerely congratulates Mitja with his outstanding position and wishes him success for the future.

Between 8th and 18th January 2020 all PCNE members can vote for the candidates by replying to an invitation mail from the program electionrunner.com

Candidates will be presented in random order, and the responses will be processed anonymously by the software.

A vote will always take place, also if there are only two candidates (or one). One month before the GA, the new board members will be announced, and then they will be installed at the General Assembly at the 8th of February 2020 in Egmond aan zee.

New Board election procedure

What is new?

The election of new board members follows a transparent procedure as stated in our bylaws and operationalized in our regulations which were officially updated in the past year. The aim is to involve all PCNE members in the election process. This means that all PCNE members can apply and all PCNE members can vote – regardless whether or not they can be present at the GA. To enable the exchange of ideas with the candidates, webinars will be held. Although candidates can express the wish to work together with another candidate in their application letter, they apply as individuals, thus it is possible that one part of a supposed couple does not get elected. The voting will be accomplished before the GA, and thus at the GA the elected board members can be installed.

Transparency

Transparency has its price. It takes courage to step up, at a chance that other candidates get more votes. However, this is the only possibility to involve all members equally. After the webinars, PCNE members can make their choice for their best candidate, in view of the actual tasks and challenges for PCNE. Not being voted for is not a personal offence! The

procedure is a fair and transparent opportunity to look for those board members who can serve PCNE best at the given moment!

What is going to happen?

The election process starts by a 'call for candidates' in the (this) September 2019 newsletter. **All PCNE members are invited to apply for board membership before the 8th of November 2019.** To this they use the form 'Expression of interest to serve as a PCNE board member' in which they briefly (max. of 500 words) describe their motivation, research profile, organisational and other relevant competencies.

Before the 9th of December the board secretary presents all candidates per mail to all PCNE members and shares the letters of interest. Letters of interest will also be available in the 'members only' section of the PCNE website.

Between 9th December and 7th January 2020 the board organizes webinars in which the candidates can present themselves to the other PCNE members and respond to questions.

Members will receive a call for voting by the 8th January 2020. PCNE can follow who voted and who did not, but cannot see to whom the vote went.

PCNE Mentoring and Training

The board has prepared a proposal of a PCNE mentoring and training system that is here presented through the website for further discussion and upgrades. The suggestion follows the initial ideas presented in the PCNE Vision 2025 and the results of the survey among PCNE members. Some of the simple actions e.g. welcome information for young researchers, will be already seen at the forthcoming PCNE symposium, while the others need to be elaborated in the time to come. The graph below outlines all different roles and options for the mentoring

and training program.

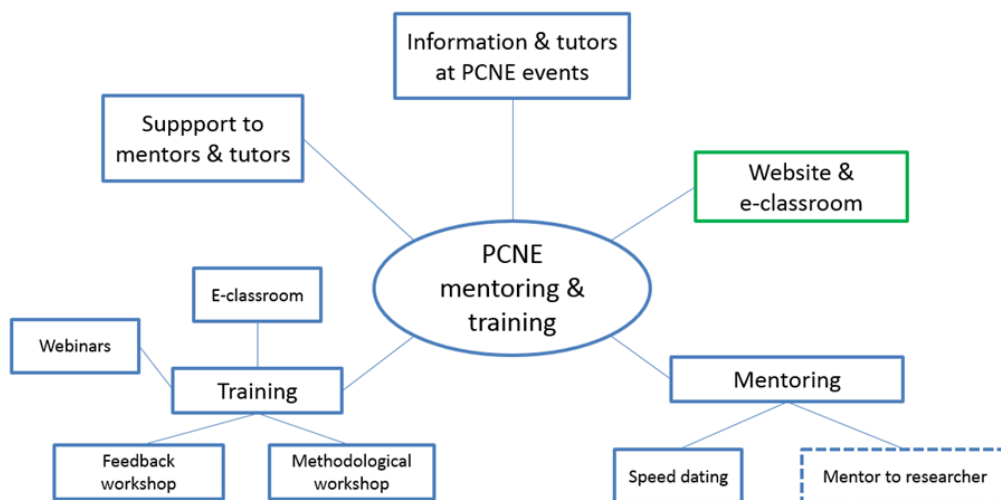
The full proposal can be found at the Members-only part of the PCNE website.

See the list at the bottom of:

<https://www.pcne.org/members>

Please note that this report is just for PCNE members, and you must be PCNE member in order to download it.

The PCNE board does appreciate a lot of feedback on the proposal!!



Mentoring and Training

PCNE News

General Assembly 2020

On Saturday afternoon 8th February 2020, the PCNE General Assembly will be held in Hotel Zuiderduin in Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands. We will start at 13.00h, so that most members can catch a flight later that afternoon. Reserve the date!!

Call for Candidates

Before the 8th of November 2019, all PCNE members are invited to apply for a six year period of board membership of the PCNE board. To this they use the form 'Expression of interest to serve as a PCNE board member' in which they briefly (max. of 500 words) describe their motivation, research profile, organisational and other relevant competencies. This form can be downloaded from the members-only part of the PCNE website. The completed forms must be sent by email to the PCNE Chairperson at m.teichert@knmp.nl.

6-8 February 2020
 The 2020 PCNE Working Symposium
Right Questions, Valid answers



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