



A conceptual framework for the implementation of pharmacy practice research in the education of students at the K.U.Leuven, Belgium

V. Foulon, S. Simoens, G. Laekeman and P. de Witte

PCNE 2007

INTRODUCTION





PHARMACY EDUCATION IN FLANDERS

Bachelor in Pharmaceutical Sciences

(180 ECTS / 3 years)

**START IN
2004-2005**

**Master in
Pharmaceutical
Care**

(120 ECTS / 2 years)

**Master in
Drug
Development**

(120 ECTS / 2 years)

**START IN
2007-2008**

INTRODUCTION





A NEW CURRICULUM

1. General implications of the Bologna declaration (1999)
2. Specific objectives of the K.U.Leuven:
Guided independent learning as 'leitmotiv'
3. Specific principles with respect to Bachelor and Master levels

Core features: ←

Scientific specialisation

Preparation for a scientific or
professional career

**MASTER
THESIS
24 ECTS**





AIM OF THE PROJECT

to develop a conceptual framework for a master thesis
in pharmaceutical care,
along with the design of an adapted curriculum

- + integration of fundamental research and pharmacy practice
- + implementation of pharmacy practice research in Flanders





STEP 1: COMPETENCY PROFILES

- Review of recent literature
- Analysis of study programmes of different European faculties



Learning objectives for the Master in Pharmaceutical Care
(knowledge / attitudes / practices)



Focus group discussions

(community pharmacists / hospital pharmacists / students)





STEP 2: AN ADAPTED CURRICULUM

Competency profiles:

- Domain specific competencies
- General competencies



Elaboration of a specific programme

core group of staff members

discussions with (individual) professors



STEP 3: A CONCEPT FOR THE MASTER THESIS

- Building on different aspects of the existing study programme
- Oriented towards the development of research skills

4 major parts:

- literature review
- project work
- pharmacy practice research
- writing up the findings





YEAR 1 | YEAR 2



10 groups of 6-7 students

each group supervised by one division of the Faculty



integration of fundamental research and pharmacy practice

EXAMPLE:

safety of COX-2 inhibitors and NSAIDs in the treatment of osteoarthritis in ambulatory care

RESULTS





YEAR 1 | YEAR 2



↓
individual work

addressing one issue of the theme

↙
preparation for discussions
formulation of research questions

EXAMPLE:

GI safety of COX-2 inhibitors and NSAIDs

Cost –effectiveness of COX-2 inhibitors and NSAIDs

RESULTS





YEAR 1 | YEAR 2



group work

collaboration with professional organisation or pharmaceutical company

project report

EXAMPLE:

Demographic profile of patients using COX-2 inhibitors?

Which COX-2 inhibitors are prescribed in ambulatory care?

Which co-medication for COX-2 inhibitors and NSAIDs?





YEAR 1 | YEAR 2



conducted along with the internship
research questions based on project work
different approaches possible

EXAMPLE:

Gaining profound data on the use of COX-2 inhibitors

Studying ADR and compliance

Analysing QOL in patients using COX-2 inhibitors

Gathering data on economic aspects of using COX-2 inhibitors





YEAR 1 | YEAR 2



↓
individual work

discussion of findings in relation to literature data

↓
education of critical pharmacists,
aspiring for a greater role in health care

RESULTS





Joint efforts of Flemish Faculties of Pharmacy
and professional organisations



through project work
along with internship



acceleration of the implementation of
pharmaceutical care (research) in Flanders

