

EAHP Congress

Between the 13th-15th March 2013 the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP) held the 18th EAHP Annual Congress in Paris. Following the newly developed partnership with EPSA David Preece (EPSA Secretary General and current intern at the EAHP) describes his first EAHP congress from behind the “scenes”.

For the first time, there was a session at the congress dedicated to pharmacy students. Students were welcomed by EAHP president Dr Frontini, who shared his passion for students to become hospital pharmacists and said that he was pleased that this session had become a reality. He assured delegates that a student session would continue in the next congress in Barcelona in 2014.

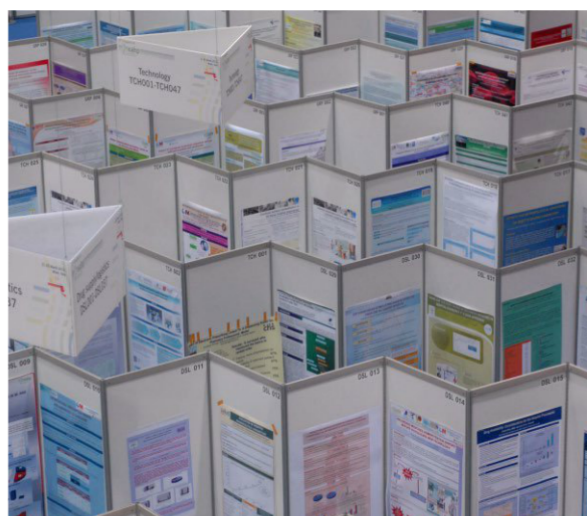
The session was titled “Student to Hospital Pharmacist- breaking down the barriers” in which speakers from Austria, France and the USA described how young students have opportunities ahead of them, and gave hints and tips to how to develop the skills they saw were beneficial to the future role of the pharmacist. This included the redesign of the Austrian pharmacy education system to prepare for a hospital pharmacy career, and advice to focus on building working relationships within the hospital environment.

Approximately 140 students registered for the congress event promoted on a new page on Facebook; “EAHP Students”, and both the EPSA and IPSF website. Their feedback is essential to improve the session next year.

The congress attracting approximately 4,000 registrations; this included hospital pharmacists,

students, professionals working for pharmaceutical companies and exhibitors. However unfortunately due to adverse weather conditions affecting travel plans arrivals were disrupted. Just goes to show that every detail can be planned, but some things are beyond your control.

The congress has been planned for over 2 years and staff at the EAHP has been working tirelessly to make sure that delegates were able to register, enjoy and participate in the congress without any problems. At this event, there were representatives from FIP, WHO, National Pharmacy Associations in addition to the hundreds of people who submitted their abstracts for the poster display. The number of abstracts received was a record high this year, making the selection process harder and harder for the scientific committee.



Students were able to attend this year for a discounted fee of only 90 euros, which I hope, will remain to further attract future hospital pharmacists to this professional event.

Attending these events as delegates can be rewarding because there is an opportunity to educate, be inspired and develop your skills and contacts.

As part of the organising team, I can see the problems, the solutions and the hard work which hosting this event takes. As chair of the session, I had prepared as best I could and I can identify areas to improve. However, I was proud to invite students to be part of the EAHP event, and take an active role in developing the opportunities for young pharmacists within the hospital sector. EAHP will soon be advertising internships within hospitals



across Europe and I hope that following this session at the congress students will be more aware of the opportunities they could have in front of them.

I hope to read next year about another student session at the EAHP congress in Barcelona, and I expect the next EPSA intern in the EAHP will host this. Personally, it has been a great experience to be part of this organisation and being involved in the organisation of the congress was the critical part of the year so far.

Any questions about how YOU can get involved please do not hesitate to get in contact:
epsa@eahp.eu



DAVID PREECE MRPHARMS
EPSA INTERN AT THE EAHP
EPSA SECRETARY GENERAL
SECGEN@EPSA-ONLINE.ORG

