

## GERMANY: HOSPITALS CAUGHT BETWEEN PUBLIC EXPECTATION AND POLITICAL COST-CUTTING

'Hospitals: caught between public expectation and political cost-cutting': this was the central topic of the 20th Leadership Training jointly organised by the German Association of Hospital Managers (VKD), member of the EAHM, and the Association of Diagnostica-Industry (VDGH) in Berlin. Germany may well top the list of European states when it comes to economic growth, but the political pressure to cut costs has not spared German hospitals either. Smaller institutions in particular are feeling the heat and might no longer be able to fulfil their obligations to the public, signifying that the complete territorial coverage might soon falter.

However, all hospitals are affected by cost saving measures and structural deficits such as a lack of trained personnel. With the help of some well-grounded examples, Dr J. Düllings, President of the VKD, was able to show exactly how negative framework conditions undermine patient-centred hospital politics, and with it social politics as a whole.

Other expert speakers then broached the subject of several other priorities against the backdrop of rationalisation measures: e.g. the competence of hospital laboratories, implications and possible approaches regarding the lack of trained personnel, performance and quality demands on hospitals and en-

isations of medical technology and hospital associations, of course including the patient representative of the Federal Government as well as health insurance representatives. We laud this instructive initiative in cooperation with the VKD, which clearly demonstrated how actors in the hospital sector could



**Photo:** Roundtable discussion at the 20th Management Seminar VKD VDGH in Berlin under the expert moderation of Mr. Dr. RM Schmitz (VKD Board Member) four from the left, next to him Dr. J. Düllings, President of the VKD.]

suring medical advances in basic care.

Like all meetings before, this 20th session proved its worth by relying on the tradition of exchange and discussion amongst representatives of key organ-

and should take on responsibility, especially in times of crisis such as these. Certainly it has set an example to follow, for all of us hospital colleagues in each and every European country.

## IMPROVING PATIENT OUTCOMES: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

### CONGRESS REVIEW: 18TH EAHP CONGRESS, MARCH 2013, PARIS

March 2013 saw another successful congress from the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP). This year's focus was Improving Patient Outcomes: A Shared Responsibility. Over 3,000 Hospital Pharmacists braved unseasonably cold temperatures and snow in Paris to attend the congress. And with a packed programme of scientific sessions, satellite symposia and social events, they were not disappointed!

The congress addressed the following issues:

- How can professionals work and collaborate better to ensure the very

best patient outcomes?

- What are the barriers to such cooperation and how do we overcome them?
- What aspects of regular practice might need to be rethought to deliver positive change in inter-disciplinary cooperation?

Dr. Marianne Ivey, Associate Professor in Pharmacy Practice at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio gave the opening keynote speech. She examined the meaning of the hospital pharmacist's responsibility and accountability in patient care and the role of the pharmacist within the inter professional team.

Another highlight from day one was the first ever student session at an EAHP congress. Entitled "Student to Hospital Pharmacist- Breaking down the barriers", Hospital Pharmacists from France, USA, Austria and the UK imparted their wisdom and experience with today's students.

Other sessions included seminars on biosimilars, accreditation and quality management and a workshop on the art of writing an abstract.

For more information on the congress and the EAHP in general please visit: [www.eahp.eu](http://www.eahp.eu)

For photos and videos of recent events please visit [myhospital.eu](http://myhospital.eu)