

**SIG Session: A BOOST to interoperability - facilitating automation in hospitals****Abstract**

Despite the proven benefits of automation in improving pharmacy operations efficiency and patient safety, the adoption of these robotic technologies by European hospitals remains low, with less than 30% of pharmacies totally or partially equipped. Consequently, most hospital pharmacies continue to rely on manual and analogue operations, which are not only resource-intensive processes but also prone to errors. It shouldn't stay this way! Interoperability between automation equipment is one of the main obstacles to a faster adoption. This challenging environment has created a clear need for a coordinated effort between hospital pharmacists and pharmacy automation vendors to simplify and standardize the integration of automation technologies in hospital pharmacies.

Inspiring from the development of the DICOM (Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine) standard, EAHP initiates a SIG with the mission to develop and make available to the market a standard communication protocol to integrate seamlessly automation equipment from different vendors and based on different technologies. This SIG will leverage the collaboration of leading European hospital pharmacists with, for the first time, leading discussions between different vendors of pharmacy automation equipment. This very session will launch a one-year life-changing project which will boost the adoption of automation by hospital pharmacies.

During the 1st part of the roundtable, three hospital pharmacists will illustrate issues related to interoperability during the implementation of automation in their hospitals. During a second round of discussion, the vendors will present the challenges they face when implementing automation projects

Learning objectives

After the session, the participants should be:

- Becoming informed on the interfaces and integration work leading to faster implementation, reduced complexity and lower overall cost of automation projects, making it more accessible to more institutions.
- Understating the process for an accurate and consistent information exchange between systems and how it that can enable more efficient workflows and reduce the risk of errors in medication dispensing.
- Gaining insights on what is needed to help hospital pharmacists chose their preferred automation technology and vendor.
- Becoming informed on the work of the new EAHP's SIG on interoperability

Educational need addressed

The session will introduce the concepts of interoperability and will illustrate the main issues and challenges that need to be tackled while providing insight on how hospital pharmacists and vendors can come together to foster automation and improve interoperability within their hospitals.

Keywords

Automation, interoperability, workflow, technology, vendors, special interest group