Annual Department Report

Academic Year 2010-2011

Department of Pharmacy
Faculty of Medicine and Surgery

1. List of recent publications

Books

Department’s Journal
The 2011 issue of the Department’s Journal, Journal of Euromed Pharmacy (JEMP) was published in March 2011. The journal carries research papers from post-graduate students. (link http://www.um.edu.mt/ms/pharmacy/research/jemp)

Publications in refereed journals


Publications in refereed conference proceedings


Other Publications


Presentations


2. **Projects externally funded**

a) Research and Innovation Programme 2008 (MCST) part-funded.
Project: Increasing the yield in the Production of Slow release Pellets in the manufacture of tablets and capsules (IYPOS)
Project coordinator – Professor Lilian M. Azzopardi (Department of Pharmacy)
Collaborating partner – Starpharma Ltd. Malta

The rationale is to improve on present process of manufacturing of slow release pellets to ensure a better yield. This will make the process more competitive and improve quality within a Good Manufacturing Process-led environment

b) RTDI funded project: Modulation of nuclear receptor function – an in-silico approach.
Co-ordinator - Dr Claire Shoemake (Department of Pharmacy)

3. **International conferences/seminars/meetings**

The Department of Pharmacy organised the Annual Pharmacy Symposium between the 7 and 11 March 2011 where fifth year pharmacy students and final year MSc (Pharmacy) students presented their projects and dissertation respectively. Fourth year pharmacy students presented works-in-progress on their project through a poster and short discussion and the third and second year students presented their preliminary work on their project in a poster presentation.

On the 8 March 2011, the Department organised an Academic Evening in commemoration of Professor Steve Hudson. The session was attended by international faculty.

Conferences where members of staff participated:

- **October 2010** Patient Safety Update in Europe, Luton, UK
- **December 2010** Workshop on training requirements for the sectoral professions in the EU, Brussels
- **February 2011** CONECT Working Group, Romania
April 2011  International Association of Pharmaceutical Technology (APV) Annual Meeting. During the meeting Professor Lilian M. Azzopardi and Professor Anthony Serracino-Inglott were each awarded the **2011 APV award** for their contribution in promoting academic and pharmaceutical industry collaboration.

April 2011  International Coalition on Neuropathic Pain, The Netherlands

April 2011  Workshop on the minimum training requirements for pharmacists, Brussels

May 2011  European Regulatory Affairs Forum, The Netherlands

May 2011  EULAR- Annual European Congress of Rheumatology, London

June 2011  Annual Congress of the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy

September 2011  Royal Pharmaceutical Society Annual Conference, London

4. **Collaboration with third parties**

Establishment of collaboration for student placements and/or joint research programmes.

**Clinical and Hospital Pharmacy:** Mater Dei Hospital clinical departments and department of pharmacy.

Karin Grech Rehabilitation Hospital, Pharmacy department

Sir Paul Boffa Oncology Hospital

**Government authorities:** Government Pharmaceutical Services

**Community pharmacy:** Private community pharmacies

**Pharmaceutical Industry:** Starpharma, Actavis, Aurobindo, Poligas, Arrow Pharm Ltd.

**Regulatory Affairs:** Associated Drugs, Freedor, JV Pharma
5. Year Overview

The Department has developed a new three-year course leading to the degree in Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Technology. The course programme has been approved and first intake is expected October 2011.

The Department worked on the re-structuring of the degree awarded to graduates in pharmacy (MPharm). This entailed reviewing and developing new course material. The new structure as approved by Senate is available for students joining the course in October 2011.

In June 2011, six students have completed their post-graduate studies leading to the post-graduate degree in Master of Science in Pharmacy. Thirty-seven final year undergraduate students completed the course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) with candidates obtaining Second Class Classification upwards. The external examiner was Professor Alan Lau, from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Seventeen pharmacy students in their fourth year participated in exchange programmes at different European schools of pharmacy. The Department hosted 18 students from a number of pharmacy schools in Europe on the Erasmus mobility programme. During their stay, these students either followed modules offered within the pharmacy curriculum, or carried out their project or undertook an internship.

*Postgraduate students at the department- PhD studies*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Research Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alison Anastasi</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical care models in heart failure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marise Gauci</td>
<td>Quality assurance of prescribing in the elderly population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louise Grech</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical care models in patients with rheumatological conditions</td>
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Post-graduate students at the department- MPhil studies

Francesca Wirth  Development of a Quality Management System for Clinical Pharmacy Services (submitted for examination)

Marie Claire Zammit  Distribution of Anti-Infective Agents in Ischaemic Peripheries (submitted for examination)

Professor Lilian M. Azzopardi
Head, Department of Pharmacy
29 September 2011