

JEMP

JOURNAL
OF EUROMED
PHARMACY

CARE ISSUES
AND MEDICATION
REVIEW



COMMUNITY
PHARMACIST
PERCEPTION OF
SUPPLEMENTARY
PRESCRIBING

METHICILLIN
RESISTANT
S. AUREUS
IN AUTOPSY
CASES

GENERIC
MEDICINE PRICES
AND THEIR
DISTRIBUTION
IN MALTA



Picture taken by Jakov Cordina (B.Pharm) at Vittoriosa Pharmacy, Vittoriosa.

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JEMP publishes original research manuscripts, subject reviews and other contributions related to all aspects of research within the field of pharmacy. JEMP is dedicated to improve the dissemination and interpretation of results of scientific investigation and evaluation of pharmacy processes, pharmaceutical services and interventions and economic outcomes of pharmacy services.

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EDITORIAL

EVOLVEMENT OF WARD AND CLINICAL PHARMACY

Anthony Serracino-Inglott

When pharmacists started visiting wards in early days of clinical pharmacy, some 40 years ago, they concerned themselves primarily with organising the supply of non-stock items and with reviewing the medication sheets to prevent misinterpretation and hence administration errors. These tasks are still important and in recent years the role of the pharmacist has evolved with the teaching of clinical pharmacy to all students at the undergraduate and postgraduate level.

At last year's annual pharmacy symposium organised by the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Malta, the Minister of Health Dr Joe Cassar emphasised the need for more pharmacy graduates to take up the practice of clinical pharmacy in earnest. He mentioned the importance of including a Clinical Pharmacist in the team of Health Care Professionals working at Mater Dei Hospital. Dr Cassar also expressed his hope of a near golden future where clinical pharmacists competently carry out their work in collaboration with other trained personnel helping them whilst working by their side.

The Department of Pharmacy has set up and planned a three year undergraduate course leading to a BSc. in Pharmaceutical Technology. This course will serve to bridge the gaps in the separate roles of the pharmacy technician and the pharmacist. Such a course would serve as a means for training professionals in complementing the job of and assisting pharmacists in the various work settings- ranging from the Pharmaceutical Industry to Community Pharmacy. This is especially relevant for the Community Pharmacy sector due to the recently implemented Pharmacy of Your Choice scheme where support for the pharmacist is needed in order for the system to be successful.

On the occasion of the 2011 Annual Pharmacy Symposium, the Department of Pharmacy and the Malta Pharmaceutical Association, organised a commemoration for Professor Steve Hudson. Professor Hudson was truly a leading example as a great innovator and promoter in the field of Clinical Pharmacy. He was a well respected colleague of many Health Care Professionals around Europe.

Steve's distinctive character and the impact which he left on the pharmacy profession was clearly seen at the highly attended Commemoration Seminar held at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Malta. Among the numerous distinguished participants was the key speaker of the event Professor Peter Noyce from the University of Manchester. The past president of the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (EAFP), Professor Benito del Castillo from Spain and the EAFP current president, Professor Bart Rambart from Belgium also contributed to the event. Coming from Steve's adopted home in Scotland were Dr John McAnaw and Dr Julienne Johnson who received the Medal of Merit bestowed by the Department of Pharmacy on Professor Steve Hudson in recognition and admiration for his contribution to Clinical Pharmacy.

This issue of the journal was sponsored by Actavis (Malta) an example of collaboration between industry and academia.

Professor Anthony Serracino-Inglott is immediate past Head of Department of Pharmacy at the University of Malta and is an internationally recognised pioneer in the development of Clinical Pharmacy since 1972.



“THE ROLE OF THE PHARMACIST HAS EVOLVED WITH THE TEACHING OF CLINICAL PHARMACY TO ALL STUDENTS AT THE UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE LEVEL”