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TEMP

JOURNAL
OF EUROMED
PHARMACY



PHARMACEUTICAL
CARE INTERVENTIONS
AT THE
REHABILITATION
HOSPITAL KARIN
GRECH

QUALITY RISK
MANAGEMENT
IMPLEMENTATION
FOR A MEDICINAL
PRODUCTS
WHOLESALE DEALER

A NEW APPROACH TO
IMPROVE THE YIELD
IN THE PRODUCTION
OF SLOW RELEASE
ORAL DOSAGE FORMS

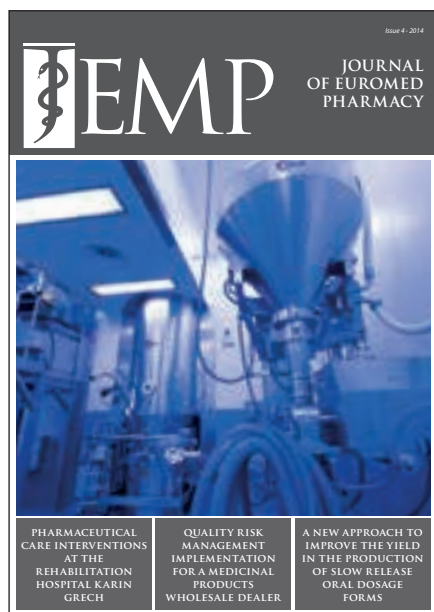


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*as part of a project being carried out in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the course leading to a degree in pharmacy.

Editorial Mission:

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.

PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY

The production of good quality medication which is safe and effective for the patient, requires the use of state-of-the-art equipment. The choice of types of equipment used to achieve this purpose is vast, ranging from blenders, used to ensure that the mixture containing the excipients and the active pharmaceutical ingredient is homogenous, to tabletting machines and coaters. There are two types of coaters, a fluidised bed coater or a coating pan. The application of a coating may serve for two main purposes, to increase aesthetic appeal of a tablet which can be done by applying a colour to mask an unattractive colour or to confer a function for example to give slow release properties or control the site where the drug is released.

All students reading for a pharmacy degree or for a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Pharmaceutical Technology degree are exposed to the daily activities taking place within the pharmaceutical industry through a number of industrial visits. During the visits students have the opportunity to appreciate the different steps involved, from synthesising the active pharmaceutical ingredient to manufacturing, testing and distributing the medication. In every step of the production cycle, students can identify the specialised equipment used to achieve the intended purpose.

Participation in these visits gives the opportunity to students to bridge the practical aspects with the theoretical ones learned during lectures. The various study units followed during the Pharmaceutical Technology course, namely Pharmaceutical Process Technology, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients Manufacture, Production and Operations Management and Pharmaceutical Quality Control, equip the students with the knowledge required to carry out the daily activities within the pharmaceutical industry.

This year marks the first time during which the first intake of Pharmaceutical Technology students will graduate after following a course of three years. This course in Pharmaceutical Technology aims to target the needs of society in the health sector and pharmaceutical industry. The views and perspectives of stakeholders on the course have been extremely positive from all aspects but especially from the opportunity to host the Pharmaceutical Technology students during their academic placements.



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EDITORIAL

The Minister of Education, Evarist Bartolo has stated that "there is general consensus that high quality education is essential not only for an individual's success but also for the social and national socio-economic development of Malta. This puts further pressure on the education system to deliver as well as to adapt to the ever-changing landscapes of global economies."

This is exactly what the Department of Pharmacy of the University of Malta is continuously working upon. The Research Component of the Master of Science programme is an example of how tertiary education programmes offered to our pharmacy post-graduate students has succeeded not only to achieve a high quality education but also to intermingle the academic virtues with the needs of society encompassing the ever evolving state of pharmacy practice.

A casual look at the Table of Contents of this journal indicates how the topics tackled by the authors dealing with clinical pharmacy interventions, industrial pharmacy process improvements and pharmaceutical regulatory affairs point towards the correlation that exists between the pharmacy education system at the University of Malta and applied research to realistic contexts. The future evolvement of pharmacy processes such as pharmacist prescribing, clinical pharmacy, industrial production of specialised medicinal products and advanced pharmaceutical regulatory affairs are the topics covered in this journal and the findings are all a result of research carried out by pharmacists researchers who graduated with a Masters in Science in Pharmacy last November.

This achievement has prompted the Department of Pharmacy to think out of the box. It embarked on a new course leading to the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Technology degree. The first group of students have reached the third and final year of the degree course and there are twelve students currently following the first year. The feedback on the course, which has a significant experiential placement component, albeit very demanding both on the academic staff and students, is very favourable. The uniqueness of this new course is that it is carefully planned to ensure that it does not only meet the stringent demand of an Honours Bachelors degree in the sciences but that it also meets the needs of society as it is adapted to the "ever changing landscapes of global economics". It is estimated that about 20 of the BSc (Hons) in Pharmaceutical Technology graduates are needed every year to meet local needs in the area. It is now up to all of us to ensure that enough guidance is provided to students to join the course and that dissemination of the outstanding success of this new course is carried out. It is also hoped that graduates from this course receive due recognition through an appropriate registration system.

The educational development in pharmacy is an example of a dynamic evolvement to meet the changing needs of society. The course leading to registration as a pharmacist has also been successfully recently re-designed. The programme consists of studies over 11 semesters where after the first 8 semesters, the degree of Bachelor with Honours in Pharmaceutical Science is awarded and after a further 3 semesters, the postgraduate degree of Master of Pharmacy is awarded. The Master of Pharmacy degree is required to register as a pharmacist.

The peak of achievements in pharmacy education is aimed to be reached this October 2014 with the introduction of a professional doctorate in pharmacy (PharmD), a first for the University of Malta. The course is planned to meet local and international needs in pharmacy taking into consideration the "ever-changing landscapes of global economies". The course duration is of 3 years and is open to pharmacists qualified to practice pharmacy. The placement and research components of the course provide the possibility of candidates to develop their skills in areas where the need exists. These areas include clinical pharmacy aspects both in the ward and the community setting leading to expansion of pharmacist roles in these areas, management of clinical trials, regulatory affairs such as dossier presentation and assessment, pharmacoeconomics and pharmacovigilance. The course will look into tomorrow's pharmacists contribution in areas dealing with gene therapy, biosimilars, personalised patient care, clinical pharmacokinetics in addition to developments in access to medicines, intravenous preparations, drug interactions and incompatibilities, point-of-care testing, patient profiling, adverse drug reactions prevention and reporting and disease registers.

The PharmD course is meant to attract a number of International and European students giving the opportunity to candidates to share knowledge and expertise in an international academic environment. The course is being offered in collaboration with the College of Pharmacy of the University of Illinois at Chicago. This collaboration enhances the envisaged international excellence of this professional doctorate (Level 8 degree) programme. Pharmacists with a drive to contribute significantly to the evolvement of pharmacy are encouraged to take up this opportunity. Opportunity is also provided for those interested to take up selected modules or to opt for parts of the course that lead to the award of a Diploma or Masters in Advanced Clinical Pharmacy.

The editorial board would like to recognise the contribution of Actavis, who are supporting this journal, through a collaborative agreement with the Department of Pharmacy.

Professor Anthony Serracino-Inglott