

# JEMP

JOURNAL  
OF EUROMED  
PHARMACY



CLOZAPINE  
TREATMENT  
IN PATIENTS  
LIVING IN THE  
COMMUNITY

PERCEPTION  
AND CRITICAL  
ANALYSIS  
OF THE MEDICINES  
ENTITLEMENT  
SYSTEM

THE  
RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN  
BIOLOGICALS AND  
INNOVATION



Pharmacist working on Treatment Protocol

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**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.

## TREATMENT PROTOCOLS

Protocols are a valuable tool in supporting pharmacists in the provision of care specific to the needs of a particular population. Protocols lead pharmacists through a therapeutic plan to take evidence-based decisions to select the most appropriate medications for their patients. Pharmacists are often approached by patients and other healthcare professionals for advice on a number of problems. The availability of protocols helps pharmacists to make a rational recommendation. In order for protocols to be a valuable tool in supporting pharmacists in the provision of care specific to the needs of the population, they need to be reviewed, updated and validated by a panel of healthcare professionals. The process of protocol development should include an evaluation to confirm that they are practical for use and user friendly. The various steps recommended in a protocol should be evidence-based. Protocols may also be structured to provide guidelines on the correct and effective use of non-prescription medicines.

Students within the Department of Pharmacy have developed a number of protocols throughout the years as part of their studies. These include protocols for paediatric care, dental conditions, management of urinary tract infections during pregnancy, gastrointestinal disorders, eye conditions and the common cold. These protocols were used by the students to investigate their applicability and practicality and to evaluate the use of the protocols as training tools for pharmacy students. Methods to disseminate and encourage compliance with protocols were also investigated and the results are presented in students' projects. The projects are available at the Department of Pharmacy at the Tal-Qroqq Campus.

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.



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## EDITORIAL

# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN PHARMACY

The need for pharmacy education to keep up with developments in the fast world of science and practice is now accepted as urgent on the pharmacy agenda. One needs to innovate a philosophy for tomorrow's pharmacy. Such philosophy should include concepts as the evaluation and containment of adverse risks of drug therapy and pharmaceutical processes. The will of pharmacists from all parts of the world to further their education is there. The facilities to do so with excellence are being provided. Ways of enabling these bright pharmacists to achieve these goals from a financial point of view are proving to be more difficult.

The Department of Pharmacy of the University of Malta has started an innovative post-graduate Level 8 International Doctor of Pharmacy Course last October in collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago (USA). Scholarships in the form of paid placements in different areas are available for both local and international candidates. These placements are provided in consultation with established entities and institutions such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Medicines Authority. The research component of the course is tailor-made to meet with the individual aspirations and capabilities of the candidates. The experience gained during the past months, now that eighteen candidates have completed the first semester, is very encouraging as can be evidenced through reading their reflections published in this issue of the JEMP.

The Department of Pharmacy through this course is providing the local and international pharmacists with a rewarding and fruitful unique experience. Through the prestigious and enthusiastic faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago, an international flavour is given to the course. Quoting a number of phrases expressed by candidates themselves is possibly the best and true form of describing some characteristics of this course. The following are some phrases used by the Doctor of Pharmacy candidates to describe the course: "holistic view of pharmaceutical care, full immersion practice-based clinical experience, emphasis for clinical research and evidence-based practice, strategic management of services, better understanding of systems and structures supporting pharmaceutical services, practicing within multidisciplinary teams, mixed learning approach, flexibility, particularly of benefit to mature students returning to their studies, in-depth volume of taught material, insight to key areas, improve critical thinking and problem-solving skills, improving knowledge, better perspective on different healthcare systems, policy

and practice in local and international settings, strengthen skills such as communication abilities, enabling oneself to broaden the knowledge and gain more experience, course is innovative in the way lectures are given".

The candidates also stated that the course offers good prospects for career paths in clinical specialisation, strategic management of pharmaceutical care delivery systems and processes, as well as training in tutoring and provides practicing pharmacists who would like to improve their career with optimal tools.

Another course started recently by the Department of Pharmacy that is attracting a number of students, is the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Technology. Malta has a strong pharmaceutical industry mainly concerned with the production of generic medicines. This flourishing industry is supported by graduates from the Department of Pharmacy. A strong contribution by the local pharmaceutical industry is in the area of release of pharmaceutical products manufactured in third countries, such as India, to the European market. These developments are all the more possible because Malta has a very strong regulatory affairs ethos including a well-structured Medicines Authority. This authority is also involved, in addition to its duties in the local scenario, in the carrying out of third country GMP inspections and evaluation of centrally registered products. A number of students from the Department are involved in these areas including those following the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Technology programme.

The Department has a strong research programme supported by a number of PhD students and full-time graduate research support officers. Examples of these projects are 'Innovative tools to investigate risk in pharmaceutical processes', 'New pathways for development of synthetic steroids', 'Distribution of anti-infective agents in the peripheries' and 'Pharmacogenetic implications in clopidogrel therapy: A pharmacist-led management approach'.

Those interested to join the Doctor of Pharmacy course or the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Technology may contact the course co-ordinator Professor Lilian M. Azzopardi at the Department of Pharmacy of the University of Malta, email: [lilian.m.azzopardi@um.edu.mt](mailto:lilian.m.azzopardi@um.edu.mt); website: <http://www.um.edu.mt/ms/pharmacy>.

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