



July 1-4, 2016

Life Long Learning in Pharmacy

11th International Conference, Split, Croatia

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Split, Croatia, July 1-4, 2016

Sailing New Waters - Expand Your Horizons

Theme: (select one)	3. Commitment to quality of life long learning in pharmacy
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Title:	Continuous education for community pharmacists in Flanders, Belgium: which way to go?

Content:
MAX 250 words

Please use these headings if applicable:

Background:

Continuous education for community pharmacists (CP) in Belgium is mandatory since 01/01/2015. As a result, more CP attend the courses organised by IPSA¹. Beyond logistical difficulties, questions were raised about the ability to fulfil the training needs of individual pharmacists, as courses are universal.

Objectives:

To investigate the expectations of CP related to continuous education, and to explore new concepts in training.

Methodology:

KU Leuven, in collaboration with IPSA, send out an electronic questionnaire to recently graduated pharmacists. The questionnaire focused on competency development and personal learning styles.

A working group of CP, academic staff and IPSA-members discussed during three brainstorm sessions new concepts in training, including possibilities for the existing on-line Q&A-box.

Results:

In total, 363 CP aged 23-33 years, completed the questionnaire. Results showed that attending oral lectures is still the most preferred way of learning. However, respondents indicated that current lectures should focus more on community pharmacy practice. Pharmacists also showed interest for a further development of e-learning modules, and for interactive workshops with real cases.

The working group recommended the implementation of learning cycles ('triad system'), including preparatory work by attendees and evaluations after the course. They further recommended the development of several learning tracks as well as different work forms and media, with the objective to offer pharmacists the possibility to choose learning tracks and styles according to their personal needs.

The triad system is pilot tested in 2015. Qualitative and quantitative results will be available by the time of the conference.

References:

¹IPSA = Flemish institution for continuous education for community pharmacists