



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

HCPWP 10th Anniversary: 2013–2023

**Reflections from the Healthcare Professionals Working Party
members**

10 YEARS
HCPWP





European Respiratory Society (ERS)



Anita Simonds

The benefit of European Respiratory Society (ERS) membership of the HCP working party has been to build relationships with the agency's experts, to learn about the important work that is relevant to respiratory medicine and communicate it back to the medical society members. It has been immensely positive experience for ERS to have an active input in the EMA work, and exchange views with other working party members.

On a personal level I have valued greatly being the HCPWP representative on the Covid Task Force, and subsequently the Emergency Task Force of EMA where I have been able to learn from and support the EMA's work at close hand during a vital period.



European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR)



Margreet
Kloppenbunrg

EULAR's collaboration with EMA has been one of our most important partnerships in our mission to gain additional recognition for rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) in the European healthcare policy arena. As RMDs continue to be largely ignored in favour of more prominent non-communicable diseases, we were particularly thankful for the opportunity to highlight the long-term medicine shortages rheumatology faces, as medicines used to treat RMDs were repurposed to treat inflammation linked to COVID-19 during the pandemic.

A concrete example is that EULAR was invited to speak at EMA's EU-SPOC meeting in December 2022 to update its members on medicine repurposing, the importance of equal access to medicines for people with RMDs, and the current status of the medicine shortage. As an organisation representing not just rheumatologists, but also other diverse healthcare professionals in rheumatology and patients with RMDs, we were also particularly pleased with the opportunity to contribute to the multistakeholder workshop on patient experience data.

EULAR is always glad to be able to contribute our expertise to EMA's needs and hopes to continue our fruitful collaboration for years to come.

European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO)



Mary McCarthy

In June 2019 UEMO co-signed a statement with the European Medicines Agency to strengthen interaction between the EMA and family doctors.

This event recognised the important role that family medicine has in medication prescribing, in the monitoring of use and in the recording of adverse events. Family doctors/general practitioners are at the heart of patient treatment and strengthening their engagement with the EMA has enormous benefits for both sides.

From UEMO's point of view, it allows general practice opinions, knowledge and data to be used for the benefit of those involved in medicines regulation; enables early warning of potential problems, especially in a time of threats to health and well-being; and fosters good relationships and best practice with an important group of healthcare professionals. From the EMA's point of view, it brings into discussions and debates a group of doctors who are at the heart of prescribing, either by initiating drugs, continuing the prescription that a specialist has advised or by stopping or reducing those medications that may contribute to over-medicalisation, especially in the elderly, the frail or the vulnerable.

The HCPWP brings into focus the perspectives of all who care for patients.



Patrick Ouvrard



European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP)



Piera Polidori

EAHP has been engaged in the activities of the HCPWP since its foundation. On behalf of all European hospital pharmacists, EAHP's current representatives would like to congratulate EMA on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the HCPWP, a milestone for healthcare professional engagement.

For hospital pharmacists the work of EMA and the engagement of EAHP in the HCPWP is essential. Throughout the last decade, representatives of EAHP have actively participated in a wide variety of EMA activities, including but not limited to exchanging views with other stakeholders during meetings of the HCPWP, contributing to different workshops, and sharing the views of the profession via consultations issued by the Agency, in particular the ICH E6(R3) GCP draft principles. Improving patients' outcomes, the availability of medicines, tackling the problems caused by medicines shortages and combatting antimicrobial resistance are among the key concerns of the hospital pharmacy profession. Consequently, EAHP values that these topics are an integral part of the HCPWP discussions.

Communication is key for making a difference in medication and the delivery of valuable services to patients. Thus, playing an active role in this platform for the exchange of information and discussion of issues of common interest between EMA and healthcare professionals is valuable. EAHP is looking forward to its future involvement with EMA and wishes the HCPWP many more successful years of operation.



Despoina Makridaki



Messoud Ashina

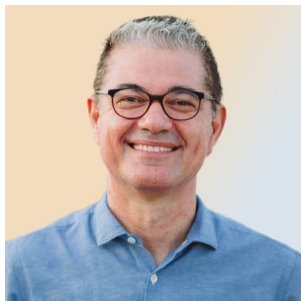
European Academy of Neurology (EAN)



The European Academy of Neurology has been represented within the HCPWP from its early years on and the excellent cooperation with EMA is mainly facilitated via the [31 EAN Scientific and Coordinating Panels](#), composed of experts on a range of neurological specialties.

Key issues to address are to promote innovation and accommodate emerging science, further promote patient access to medicines and affordability, address key bottlenecks for developing orphan and paediatric medicines, new antimicrobials, embrace digital transformation and build the necessary digital infrastructure in the network, optimise regulatory frameworks and processes, improve the oversight of pharmaceutical quality and manufacturing, monitor and prevent shortages, and ensure sustainable resources for EMA and the network to implement all relevant actions.

European Academy of Paediatrics (EAP)



Adamos Hadjipanayis

I had the honour and privilege to work with the Healthcare Professionals' Working Party since 2013. It has been an excellent experience working with scientists with different backgrounds. I had the opportunity to review many communication materials, I joined small working groups and committees that produced tangible results, I took part in developing videos for vaccines, contributed to develop the new EMA website etc. I cannot recall all the activities for these last ten years. What I can confess is that Healthcare Professionals' Working Party is a very important platform that gives voice to all healthcare professionals. I believe that the voice of those representing children is of utmost importance. There are many unmet needs regarding children and medicine. The health and lives of those who are dearest to us – our children – rest in our hands. Thus, we all need to work together to promote their health.

Finally, I must admit that all facilitators on behalf of EMA were fantastic. They are always polite, and they reply to any request or question promptly. As this is my last participation in this Working Party, I want to wish you all the best for the future. I will miss you.



Dario Trapani

European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)



Throughout its 10-year existence, the HCPWP has been instrumental in facilitating impact-oriented interaction and dialogue between the scientific experts at the EMA and oncology professionals.

The EMA's role in facilitating access to medicines, driving scientific excellence, and improving health is key to ensuring that patients with cancer receive the best possible treatments and care. The recently adopted three-year work plan of the EMA's Oncology Working Party, which sets out many patient-oriented goals, is a great testimony of this important work, which ESMO intends to support through its collaboration with the EMA on rare cancers, precision medicine and innovative communication.

It is of immense value that the oncology community, through ESMO's membership of the HCPWP, is able to contribute to the EMA's work in the cancer space, including by means of ESMO's flagship tool for supporting decision-making regarding the therapeutic value of anti-cancer therapies. the ESMO-Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale (ESMO-MCBS).

The challenges in the oncology field are enormous, though I am convinced that by continuing the work done in the HCPWP real strides can be made in addressing the cancer burden in Europe and in delivering high-impact, patient-centric cancer care to all. I, and all my oncology colleagues at ESMO, are honored to contribute to these efforts.





European Geriatric Medicine Society (EuGMS)



Wilma Knol

10 years of HCPWP

An important step for inclusion and transparency.
Sometimes highly demanding for the representatives ;).

Don't stop here!



Michael Denking

Wilma & Michael for the EuGMS



Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)



Jorge Batista

PGEU is a long-standing member of the HCPWP. Over the years, and since the creation of the HCPWP, PGEU has been an active voice of this important structure on the regulatory framework of medicines in the European Union. Representing the community pharmacists' perspective in this multi-professional environment, we are thrilled to join all the other stakeholders in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the HCPWP and seeing this group growing in number, wisdom and impact.

The vitality of this Working Party is seen through the live discussions happening during the meetings, informally, and even on-line. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic forced a distance and a mandatory virtual connection, it did not deter bringing closer together the different healthcare professions and representatives in continuing the highly relevant work and valuable interactions.

This is an occasion of immense joy and pride as we reflect upon a decade of dedicated collaboration, tireless efforts and remarkable achievements. Over the last ten years, the HCPWP has been a united force of healthcare professionals from diverse backgrounds that together have consistently demonstrated unwavering commitment, professionalism, and a solid dedication to the well-being of patients, ensuring the safety and efficacy of medicinal products within the European Union. Community pharmacists wish for another decade of successes, fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement. Happy 10th anniversary to all!



Ilaria Passarani





Olivier Clément

European Society of Radiology (ESR)



The Health Care Professional Working Group which became a working Party was a great opportunity to meet with the EMA representatives and to have open discussions at the coffee breaks. This direct liaison tool with the European Society of Radiology (ESR) was very helpful in the recent “crises” on Gadolinium contrast media like NSF and brain depositions.

