



The I SoP Star

No 21. December 2010

From Accra to Istanbul via Minsk

Ghana Conference Report

The 10th ISoP Annual Meeting took place in Accra, Ghana from 3rd -7th November 2010. It was attended by almost 300 delegates from all over the world and included many stimulating presentations and discussions, and a wonderful social programme.

The local organizer, Mrs Mimi Delese Darko, and her team were warmly congratulated on organising such a successful meeting.

As well as the fact that the conference was being held in the home town of ISoP President Alexander Dodoo, the sense of occasion was increased by the fact that this was the 10th Anniversary of ISoP. We were fortunate to have all 3 of ISoP's past presidents at the conference, Professors Ralph Edwards, Giampaolo Velo and Nicholas Moore, and between them they cut a special ISoP birthday cake as part of the gala dinner celebrations!



EC Board (L → R) M Harrison-Woolrych, M Lindquist, D McCarthy, U Hagemann, A Dodoo, H Le Louet, E van Puijenbroek, Y Moride, L Alesso, U Moretti, and E Brown.

We are also happy to announce that the African chapter of ISoP (President: Rachida Soulaymani-Bencheikh, Morocco) was officially launched during the Annual Meeting (formerly called African Society of Pharmacovigilance (ASOP)).

Also President Alexander Dodoo and the Secretary General of CIOMS, Gunilla Sjölin-Forsberg announced an annual lecture to be sponsored by CIOMS at the ISoP Annual Meetings. This collaboration brings ISoP and CIOMS closer together and the first lecture will be delivered during the 2011 ISoP meeting in Istanbul.



During the General Assembly (AGM), Alexander Dodoo, on behalf of the Executive Committee, proposed the nomination of Mary Couper, Andrew Herxheimer, and Chalbi Belkahia as honorary members which the Assembly unanimously approved.



Season's Greetings to I SoP members!

AGM: M Couper and A Herxheimer Honorary members with M Lindquist and A Dodoo, and R Benkirane on behalf of C Belkahia.

Easy to read and downloadable, the AGM minutes will be available on the website <http://www.isoponline.org/general-assembly.html>

Some of the presentations and winning posters are now posted on the Conference website. The password to allow access to them will be sent with the confirmation of your membership Renewal.

Non-members who registered at the Ghana Annual Meeting and paid full registration fees will become ISoP members for the year commencing 1st January 2011: a very warm welcome to these new 50 members!

ISoP 2010 Poster Prizes

153 abstracts were accepted as posters and oral presentations, and as always, an ISoP Poster Prize was given to the three best posters - a difficult selection for the Poster Committee!

The Poster sessions are an integral scientific and networking part of the ISoP Annual Meetings. Year after year, many colleagues in the Society submit abstracts to be shown and discussed as posters. The variety of topics is always impressive and so are the sources of origin. So it was also this year at the celebration conference in Ghana.

To further endorse the poster session and to increase its importance, the ISoP board nominates a poster review committee in order to select three (3) outstanding pieces of work. The authors and presenters are awarded a prize. This year the membership of the poster committee (Sarah Daniels, Eveline Jaquenoud, Philip Watson and Jan-Willem van der Velden) had the task of reviewing almost 130 scientific contributions. The criteria for judging were: Originality, Methodology, Practical Impact and Presentation. Each of the committee members was assigned 30+ posters to review. They had many enjoyable encounters with enthusiastic presenters and were able to challenge conclusions in their discussions.

All four of members of the Poster Committee nominated two or three posters, and those were then reviewed by the entire committee.

In the last plenary session of the conference the winners were announced:

- First prize: 'Toxic Mercury Levels in Counterfeit Medicated Cosmetic in UAE and Potential of Toxicological Adverse Drug Reactions' Abstract no 27 (F A Al Braik, A S Elgharbawy, and M Y Hasan)
- Second Prize: 'The role of spontaneous reporting in the identification of substandard medicines: the case with Diazepam injection' Abstract No 148 (S Opuni, D Darko, G Sabblah, A Amoakohene, A Gwira, E Dordoye and staff of the National Pharmacovigilance Centre)
- Third Prize: 'Pharmacoepidemiological study of antiretrovirals in Lagos University Teaching Hospital Idi-Araba, South West Nigeria' Abstract No 94 (IA Oreagba, S O Olatunji, O Opanuga, S O Olayemi and S Akanmu).



Posters prizes winners with the Posters Committee

ISoP courses in Belarus

Organized in collaboration with the Center for Examinations and Testing in Health Service of Republic of Belarus, two training courses (1 for clinical pharmacologists and 1 for Industry) will take place on **26th and 27th May 2011** at the Medicinal Post-Graduate University, located in the center of the capital, Minsk. More details will become available from the ISoP Administration office or visit our website www.isoponline.org/Training regularly to check.

A Happy New Year to all members!

ISoP 2011 Turkey

The 11th ISoP Annual Meeting with the theme: "Next stop: Istanbul – bridging the continents!" will be held from **26th to 28th October, 2011** in Istanbul, Turkey (Harbiye Military Museum). Ulrich Hagemann from The Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices, Germany is chairing the Scientific Committee; Seyfullah Dagistanlı, President of the Turkish Pharmacovigilance Society is responsible for the Local Organizing Committee.

A panel of distinguished international experts in pharmacovigilance will participate in an exciting programme that will include both plenary and parallel sessions covering a range of topics including:

- ❖ General pharmacovigilance issues, e.g. ethics, risk perception, medication errors, off-label use
- ❖ Pharmacology and pharmacovigilance: surrogate parameters, gender aspects, monoclonals, pharmacogenomics
- ❖ Epidemiology and statistics: Signal detection, post authorisation studies, registries, vaccines
- ❖ Special patient groups: children, elderly, compassionate use

Training courses will precede the Annual Meeting on the 25th October 2011.



Call for abstracts:

The Scientific Committee wish to invite abstracts for oral/poster presentations related to Pharmacovigilance, Drug Safety, Adverse Drug Reactions, Pharmacogenomics,

Clinical Research, Drug Discovery, and Regulatory Affairs.

Deadline for abstract submissions is **31st May 2011**. All accepted abstracts will be published in Drug Safety. Information on all aspects of ISoP 2011, including abstract submission, how to register and an up-to-date programme is available on the conference website www.isop2011.org (from January) or from the ISoP 2011 Organizing Secretariat: isop2011@serenas.com.tr

Phone: +90 312 440 50 11

Fax: +90 312 441 45 62

www.isop2011.org

The organizers look forward to welcoming you to the ISoP 2011 Annual Meeting!



ISoP 2012 Mexico

Cancun will play host in 2012 (24th -26th October 2012, Hilton Hotel). More details in due course.

Call for Annual Meetings bids:

If you would like your country to host the 2013 Annual Meeting, please do contact the Administration Office and ask for guidelines for your bid (which should be received by 15th March 2011).

A Happy New Year to all members!

Membership renewal for 2011

Renewal forms have been sent out by electronic mail. Only members who are paid-up will have access to benefits. As last year, we have frozen the membership fees for another year and students, retired individuals, and emerging countries are able to subscribe to the journal *Drug Safety*. A limited number of reduced-fee memberships are available to potential members from emerging countries (as defined by the World Bank List) if working directly in pharmacovigilance.

In 2012.... a new membership fee structure should be in place, and before then you will have the opportunity to have your say and to vote.

Drug Safety Journal

As a member, you can subscribe to *Drug Safety* at a substantially discounted rate. If you already receive the journal via ISoP, please make sure that you renew and pay for your ISoP membership as soon as possible in January to avoid interruption in the delivery of print copies of the journal (please note that your online access will continue).

ADIS claims policy states that claims must be received within the claim period, which is up to 6 months after the original issue was dispatched, at which time only one replacement copy will be dispatched.

Benefits for members

New: 25% discount on *Reactions Pharmacovigilance Insight*

20% discount on Wiley-Blackwell *Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Medicine* books for all ISoP members. You can order books online at www.wiley.com. The code to allow access to the 20% discount is sent with your renewal membership notice.

ENCePP

(European Network of Centres for and

Pharmacovigilance) ENCePP promoted by the EMA was launched in 2007 aiming at bringing together existing EU resources in the field of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance to strengthen the post-authorisation monitoring of the safety of medicinal products and to improve the EU pharmacovigilance system.

ISoP is part of the ENCePP Advisory Group and Past President Nicholas Moore is currently the ISoP representative on the ENCePP Steering group.

Reminder: Please find the methods guide prepared by ENCePP ([Methodological Standards in Pharmacoepidemiology](#)), which has been put out for public consultation at http://www.encepp.eu/public_consultation/index.html Before 3rd January 2011, comments can be sent directly to ENCePP, or to ISoP Administration (administration@isoponline.org) which will then collate them before they are transmitted back to ENCePP.

Thank you very much for your participation!

Bursaries

This year, the Society offered 9 bursaries to young researchers in pharmacovigilance, members of ISoP, to attend the training courses in Belgrade and the Annual Meeting in Accra. In addition, 10 participants from Ghana received free registration for ISoP 2010. Here are some extracts of their reports about ISoP 2010:



"....We learned the new recommendations on the management of medication side effects. The new molecules must be followed by surveillance studies for rational use. We also made a small contribution for pharmacovigilance of antiretroviral in Mali on two oral presentations in the session "French." This knowledge learned will improve care for patients infected with HIV in Mali in making recommendations about side effects and the establishment of a pharmacovigilance system and initiating new projects in research on HIV in Mali...."
(Aboubacar Alassane Oumar, PharmD, Msc

A Happy New Year to all members!

Congress participant from the University of Bamako – Mali)



The 10th Anniversary of International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP) 2000-2010 in Accra, Ghana.

ISoP not only Society of Pharmacovigilance but family of Pharmacovigilance

“The first of my experience in attending the International Society of Pharmacovigilance conference is in Accra, Ghana. I have been there with the scholarship assistance from ISoP. This is also my best opportunity to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of ISoP.

Towards the end of the conference and training course (3 days and 2 days training course in pharmacovigilance and pharmacoepidemiology), I have gained a lot of experience in pharmacovigilance system and risk management. The current interest issues including vaccine safety have widen my eyes in public health surveillance system and brought me some advantage idea to do with existing safety surveillance system in Thailand....” (Sareeya Wechwithan, Pharmacist, Health Product Vigilance Center, Food and Drug administration, Thailand)



“My visit to Ghana for the ISoP 2010 Conference was indeed a memorable one compared to my previous trips.

The conference empowered me with a variety of knowledge of pharmacovigilance activities from different parts of the globe. It also provided me with an avenue for networking and collaborations. Also at the exhibition stand, new softwares to facilitate pharmacovigilance research were introduced and the posters were simply wonderful and educative.

On one of the evenings we were treated to an exciting night of cultural display by the national theatre group

The post conference workshop was an eye opener as it afforded me the opportunity to get state of the art information on pharmacovigilance and the relatively new concept of vaccine safety. Furthermore, i was able to meet face to face with experts in

the field of Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacoepidemiology. Indeed i wined and dined with names that i had come across only in learned journals! ...” (Ibrahim Oreagba PhD FPCPharm, Research Fellow/Consultant and Coordinator Pharmacovigilance SW Nigeria, Dept of Pharmacology, University of Lagos – Nigeria)



“It was my great opportunity to attend the ISoP 10th annual meeting at Accra, Ghana held on 3-6th Nov, 2010. This time the theme of the meeting was “Pharmacovigilance in the global village”. It had attempted to address the pharmacovigilance practices across the world with a view to share best practices and focus on common challenges along with developing broad principles for tackling with them. The meeting was started with all the agendas, which addressed the theme of the meeting in the very beautiful place at La Palm Hotel. The scientific program had attempted to cover the current issues related to pharmacovigilance. It was an opportunity to listen to those whom I have knew just by their name in different journal articles and also to broader my concept.

Eco-pharmacovigilance and risk management plan was the issue of current interest. The post conference training sessions was really good, it provided me to know and share experiences on the vaccine safety and risk management plan. It was focused to the new and emerging scientists in the field of pharmacovigilance. I got to listen by experienced resource personnel and the discussion was really good.

At the same time, I got a chance to learn bit about African culture. The social programme scheduled to us was really a nice one and very new for me including most of the participants. We had great time at the moment to see the African culture, art and drama. The moment of the gala dinner was unforgettable..... “ (Santosh KC Senior Pharmacist, Bir Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal, MS scholar, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand)

A Happy New Year to all members!



Information on bursaries for 2011 is available from end-January on www.isoonline.org

isoonline.org

Please visit our website regularly to stay informed about ISoP and its many activities!

LinkedIn

We now have an ISoP page (for members only) on LinkedIn, a very useful resource for our membership.

Information will soon be circulated, with details about how to join the ISoP online group for our members who will be able to enjoy a forum for discussion of pharmacovigilance-related issues, voting on issues to obtain a consensus view, obtain updates on planned training courses, keep in touch with colleagues, etc . So, be prepared!

If you have changed your address, do let us know as soon as possible. Some members don't

Have
you
moved?

receive up-to-date information because of not providing their e-mail address. We would like to keep members informed of Society news, and electronic mail is the quickest and cheapest way of sending certain types of information. Please e-mail your correct details to us so that we can update our address lists. Thank you!

Please send your letters, comments, ideas and contributions for ISoP Star to administration@isoonline.org

Tel and fax: +44 (0)20 3256 0027

A Happy New Year to all members!