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# EuroDURG bulletin

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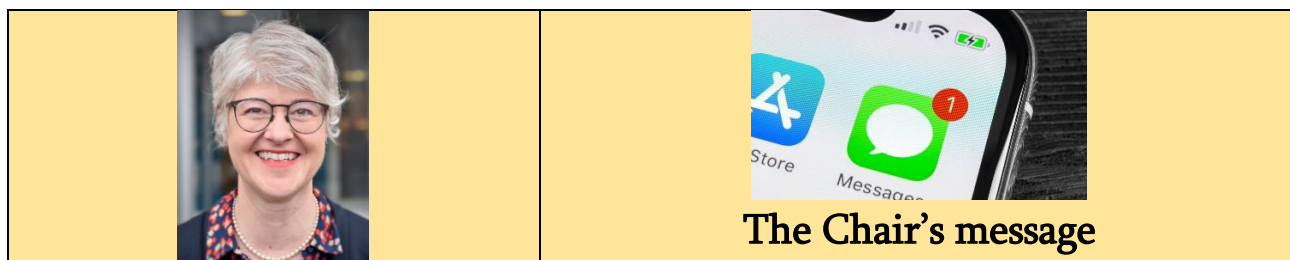
No. 31

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NEWSLETTER OF THE EUROPEAN CHAPTER OF THE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF DRUG UTILISATION RESEARCH (SIG-DUR) OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGY (ISPE)

**Editors** The Bulletin was prepared by the EuroDURG board members, SIGDUR chairs and chairs of regional chapters. See contributors below each paragraph. Edited by Ria Benko. Send reactions to: [benkoria@gmail.com](mailto:benkoria@gmail.com)

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Dear colleagues,

Here it is, our Bulletin, full of information on the work we have done in the last year and a look ahead of what is coming. But first I would like to thank all the members of the Core Committee and the EuroDURG Board members who have contributed so much time and efforts to make our activities successful. I very much appreciate their hard work and the fun we had during this year!

What were highlights in 2021? A significant amount of our time was taken up running the second EuroDURG Summer School. Originally, we planned to travel to Vilnius University in Lithuania. In practice, we all stayed at home, hosting the course online. It was an excellent educational programme with 30 participants from all over the world and many EuroDURG committee members teaching. More details can be found in the bulletin and on the website (<https://www.pharmacoepi.org/eurodurg/>). We were also very busy contributing to various European Drug Utilization research projects, like the Happy Patient project ([www.happypatient.eu](http://www.happypatient.eu)), the project on polypharmacy in older adults in six European countries in collaboration with IQVIA, the DURDAM project and many more. You can read much more about this on the next pages.

Looking ahead to 2022 – another busy year on the horizon with lots of activities. We will spend a lot of time planning the next EuroDURG conference in lovely Bologna in Italy in Summer 2023. Elisabetta Poluzzi is the chair of the local committee. We will keep you updated on the deadlines of abstract submission and registration. We will also be extremely busy making the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of our Book, Drug Utilization Research: Methods and Applications happen, with Monique Elseviers and Bjorn Wettermark being important driving forces. We will continue working on the different European projects and possibly initiate new ones. We will also continue collaborating with the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology, especially, with the SIG DUR, with colleagues from all around the globe. You can also find an announcement of ISPE's next conference in this Bulletin, planned to be run in August in Copenhagen in Denmark. We encourage you to submit abstracts, so we will have a lot of drug utilization research at the conference!

Hopefully you have noticed our activities on social media, you can follow us on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/euro-durg/>) and on twitter (<https://twitter.com/eurodurg>). If you are an early career researcher, you can join the LinkedIn network of DUR early career researchers, please contact Ana Thomas or Irina Iaru (see contact details at the end) if you are interested. Please continue to build our community both at home and internationally.

Inappropriate use of medicines remains a very important public health issue. Drug utilization research supports moving towards personalized medicine and tailored treatment choices, maximizing resource use, informing health policies and thereby improving public health. The increase in using real world evidence during and after licensing of medicines are other important examples where drug utilization research is key. Also, providing information on the treatment of COVID-19 patients and information on changes in treatment of other diseases as a consequence of the pandemic. These are just a few areas that our growing EuroDURG communities work on.

Please take time to read the Bulletin to learn more about our activities. Join in where possible and contact us with questions and ideas. I hope to see many of you through 2022!

***Katja Taxis***

***Chair of EuroDURG***

***European chapter of ISPE SIG DUR***



## **Retirement of Luisa Ibanez**

***EuroDURG Board Member***

Luisa Ibáñez, MD, PhD is a clinical pharmacologist with training in pharmacoepidemiology. She has carried out her main professional activities at Vall d'Hebron University Hospital as a Clinical Pharmacologist, as a Senior Researcher in Pharmacoepidemiology and as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics). Her main research areas have been observational studies aimed at assessing the risks of different diseases associated with the use of medicines and drug utilization studies. As a drug utilization researcher she participated in the Pharmacoepidemiological Research on Outcomes of Therapeutics by a European Consortium (PROTECT, IMI-JU Call nº 6. (2009-2014) as co-leader of the Drug Utilization group (WP2-WG3). The Inventory of Drug Consumption Databases in Europe was one of this project's main results. The document was reviewed by members of the EuroDurg group. Another collaborative activity with the EuroDurg has been the Guidelines for Cross-National Drug Utilization studies. In addition, she coordinated the DU group in the PE-PV Consortium (Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance Consortium), which is a public academic partnership coordinated by the University of Utrecht receiving support from the European Medicines Agency, for the study on patterns of utilization and adherence of different direct oral anticoagulants in eight European databases representing six countries. She is a senior investigator and advisor in the PE-PV Consortium projects related to the utilization of retinoids and valproic acid in several European countries.

***We would like to thank Luisa for her many active contributions to EuroDURG activities and wish her all the best for her future!***

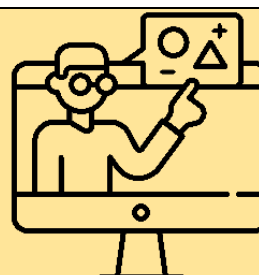
## EuroDURG communication with DURs



In 2021, we have launched our social media pages to get closer to you and the whole community of DUR researchers. These pages have become an avenue to easily disseminate activities of the EuroDURG, including the Summer School, important updates on projects, announcement of the new edition of the DUR book and other topics we deemed of interest to the DUR community. We have built a small but continuously growing community and we would like to thank everyone who is following our updates and further disseminates the news. Since the page was launched, different content has been shown over the feeds of LinkedIn members more than 3000 times and more than 300 unique visitors have been on our LinkedIn page. We are hoping to increase our visibility on social media further and we invite everyone interested to find/follow us on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/euro-durg/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/EuroDurg>), to stay up to date with all the activities we have planned for 2022.

*Ana Tomas*

## Your input needed!



In preparation for the educational activities in 2022, EuroDURG is planning a series of webinars. We need your input! Help us decide on topics to be covered by filling out a survey below:

<https://forms.gle/XPZhRCbbZKWyL1Bg7>

*Ana Tomas*

## Report on EuroDURG online summer school, Vilnius 2021

DRUG UTILIZATION RESEARCH  
**SUMMER  
SCHOOL**



The Drug Utilization Research (DUR) summer school was held online on 22nd -25th June 2021 with cooperation with Vilnius University, Lithuania. 30 PhD students, researchers and civil servants/public health officials from 15 countries worldwide attended the course.

The DUR Summer School course consisted of lectures, seminars and workshops that provided participants with a thorough methodological background on drug utilization research (data sources, study designs, measurement methods, statistical/analytical methods, qualitative research methods, cross national studies) and examples of applications (DUR in older people, antimicrobials, adherence, DUR and health policy). Critical appraisal of the literature was exercised in an interactive workshop in small groups. Participants presented an overview of their own research and discussed it in small groups.

Overall participants were satisfied with the content of the Summer School. High experience of the lecturers, high engagement of participant and perfect match between theory and practice were highlighted by majority of the participants. The online Summer School showed that remote learning, collaboration and engagement could be as much successful as meeting in person.

 **EuroDURG** DUR Summer School, 22-25 June, 2021



Vilnius  
University

### Participant distribution

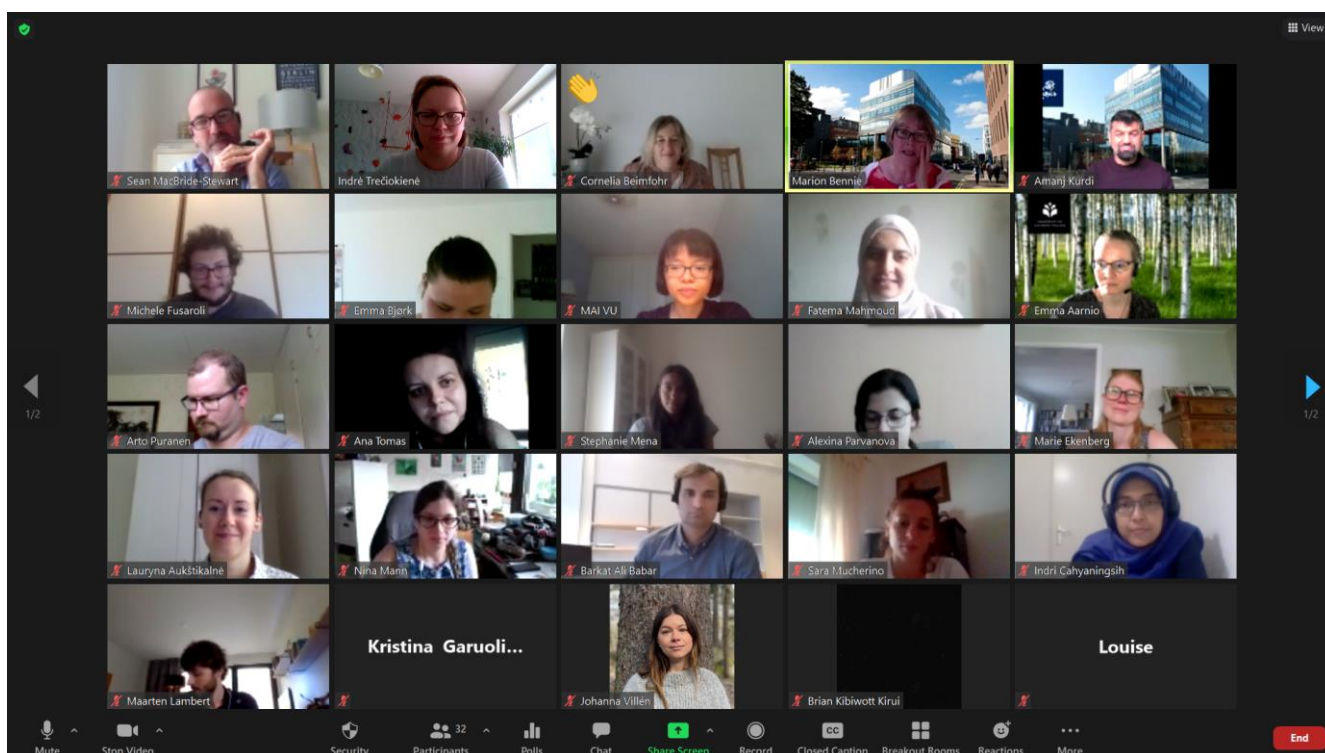


**30 participants - 15 countries**

### Preparation meeting of the Summer school



### Summerschool in ACTION



*Indrė Trečiokiene*



## SHORT SUMMARIES FROM ONGOING PROJECTS



### Guideline for Cross-National-Comparison (CNC) studies



Many of the EuroDURG board members are highly involved in drug utilization studies comparing medication use in different countries or regions. Some years ago, we received a research grant from ISPE to summarize our experiences developing A Guideline for Designing, Conducting, Analyzing, Reporting, and Reviewing Cross-National Comparison of Drug Utilization Studies. After final editing and approval by ISPE, the guideline will be submitted to the journal *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug safety* for publication.

*Monique Elseviers*

### Increasing access to Drug Utilization data: Glasgow declaration



During our 2017 conference in Glasgow, EuroDURG has taken the initiative to develop a declaration aiming to improve the availability and accessibility of drug utilization data worldwide. This *Glasgow Declaration* was further discussed during a workshop at the ISPE conference in Prague in 2018 and the EuroDURG conference in Szeged in 2020. Currently, the declaration is in the hands of ISPE seeking for official endorsement (editorial note: comments from public consultation has been arrived to Katja just before Christmas). The Public Policy Committee of ISPE launched a call for member comments for the statement resulting in a limited number of queries and suggestions. We are preparing a reply and expect that the ISPE board will endorse within the coming weeks. The final Glasgow Declaration will be posted at the ISPE website and shared with members. Once posted, the declaration will be communicated to a wider audience (individual researchers and organizations) in the field of drug utilization and pharmacoepidemiology to secure their support through a broad subscriber endorsement process. Our final intention is to bring the Glasgow Declaration to the attention of health policy makers responsible for initiating actions for a better availability and access to drug utilization data.

*Monique Elseviers*

IQVIA project	
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**The prevalence of polypharmacy and the use of potentially inappropriate medications – a cross-national study in 6 European countries**

EuroDURG (lead by Marion Bennie and Katja Taxis) is working collaboratively with IQVIA to undertake a multi-country study, using IQVIA databases, to explore the prevalence of polypharmacy in the elderly population (>65yrs) and examine the use of selected PIMS (potentially Inappropriate medication): opioids; antipsychotics; benzodiazepines, and proton pump inhibitors. The study spans six countries : Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK and has adopted a standardise methodology to examine the databases (generated from primary care general practice activity) with country level validation and interpretation supported by EuroDURG identified leads for each country: Belgium (Monique Elseviers); France (Lucas Moran); Germany (Ingrid Schubert); Italy (Elisabetta Poluzzi); Spain ( TBC); UK (Sean Macbride-Stewart). The analysis has been undertaken by a joint IQVIA/ EuroDURG team and will include interpretation of any variations identified in context of country health care systems potentially impacting the findings. The output has been presented thus far at IQVIA ( October 2020) and EuroDURG / ISPE (March 2020, August 2019) conferences. A manuscript for publication is due for submission Dec 2021.


*Marion Bennie*

Happy Patient Project	
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The HAPPY PATIENT project is a 3 year Project which started in January 2021, co-funded by the 3rd Health Programme of the European Union. HAPPY PATIENT seeks to reduce the impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by decreasing the inappropriate use of antimicrobials for the management of common community-acquired infection. HAPPY PATIENT builds upon evidence and proposes an innovative patient-centred approach. The project include health care providers working in general practice, out of hours services, nursing homes and community pharmacies in 5 Target Countries (Spain, France, Lithuania, Poland and Greece) with diverse health systems, incomes and level of antimicrobial medicines consumption. EuroDURG (lead by Katja Taxis and Ria Benko) is involved in the workpackage focusing on the implementation in community pharmacies. A pilot study has been completed at the end of 2021. The main study will start in 2022. More information can be found on [www.happypatient.eu](http://www.happypatient.eu). You can also follow the project on social media: LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/happy-patient/>) or twitter ([https://twitter.com/Happy\\_Patient](https://twitter.com/Happy_Patient)).

*Katja Taxis*

Other European projects/surveillance/initiatives	
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### 1. NERDeprescribing

NERDeprescribing is a network that supports collaboration and contributes to increasing visibility of deprescribing research in North Europe. You can follow the news about the network, the future webinars and conferences on the official Twitter page (<https://twitter.com/NDeprescribing>). See above their first conference details.

### 2. ESCP – Deprescribing SIG

Also for the ones interested in deprescribing, more information about the Deprescribing Special Interest Group (SIG), an international deprescribing initiative launched by the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP), can be found on the official ESCP website (<https://escpweb.org/news/sig-deprescribing-2nd-kick-off-meeting>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/ESCPNews>), LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/escpweb/posts/?feedView=all>), or Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/escpweb>). Please see above their conference details.


### 3. ESAC-Net

European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption Network (ESAC-Net), formerly ESAC, continues to collect data on antimicrobial consumption for systemic use, covering both community and hospital sector in the EU/EEA. More information about the network and the latest annual reports can be found here: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/antimicrobial-consumption/surveillance-and-disease-data/report-protocol>

### 4. EurOP<sup>2</sup>E: European Open Platform for Prescribing Education

This is an online platform for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (CPT) Teachers with the main aim of improving and harmonizing CPT education in Europe and the rest of the world by actively training prescribing. The platform is expected to be launched in Q4 2021. For more information, check the website: <https://www.prescribingeducation.eu/european-open-platform-for-prescribing-education/>.

*Irina Cazacu*

A pan-European project on medication adherence	
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Many drug utilization studies have shown that there is substantial room for improvement in medication adherence. In recent years, many technological advances (e.g. smart pillboxes, digital inhalers, tracking devices, e-injection pens, e-Health, big data) have been introduced which may support healthcare



professionals and empower patients in detecting and managing non-adherence. There is limited awareness of the availability of these technologies among healthcare professionals. Successful implementation is further hampered by a lack of overview of different healthcare systems, reimbursement pathways and policy regulations that significantly differ between countries. To address these challenges, the European Network to Advance Best practices & technoLogY on medication adherencE (ENABLE) project started. The network is funded by EU and aims to:

- raise awareness of adherence enhancing technological solutions,
- foster and extend multidisciplinary knowledge on medication adherence at patient, treatment and system levels,
- accelerate translation of this knowledge to useful clinical application and
- work collaboratively towards economically viable implementation of adherence enhancing technology across European healthcare systems.

The ENABLE project is divided into four Working Groups (WGs) focusing on assessing current practices, inventing technologies, identifying implementation pathways and communication, respectively. By the end of 2021, the network included more than 100 researchers from 39 partner European countries. Interested people are most welcome to join. More information is found on the project website <https://enableadherence.eu/>

*Björn Wettermark*

<p><b>DURDAM - Drug Utilisation Research Databases Appraisal of Maturity</b></p>	
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Drug utilization research can be defined as ‘an eclectic collection of descriptive and analytical methods for the quantification, the understanding and the evaluation of the processes of prescribing, dispensing and consumption of medicines, and for the testing of interventions to enhance the quality of these processes’.

Data that can be used for drug utilization research includes sales, reimbursement databases, disease registries or electronic health care records (EHCs). Each of these sources of data provide different insights into the key aspects of drug utilization research; patterns of drug use, quality of drug use, determinants of drug use and outcomes of drug use. A country with mature drug utilization research databases would be able to determine all four aspects of drug utilization for all medicines and all citizens of that country. DURDAM an international modified Delphi consensus study which will result in a tool for countries to assess how well suited their data is for DUR. The protocol for the project is nearly complete. It is expected that the Delphi will take place in early 2022 and the self-assessment tool available by the end of 2022.

Project leads – Indrė Trečiokienė and Seán MacBride-Stewart

Project core group – Monique Elseviers, Hege Salvesen Blix, Gisbert Selke, Björn Wettermark, Katja Taxis, Lisa Pont. For further details please contact Indrė ([indre.treciokiene@mf.vu.lt](mailto:indre.treciokiene@mf.vu.lt)) or Seán ([sean.macbride-stewart@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:sean.macbride-stewart@ggc.scot.nhs.uk))

*Sean MacBride-Stewart*

## ISPE SIG-DUR INSIGHTS



The ISPE DUR SIG has not been really active in the past couple of years because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The annual meeting was a great gathering place for everyone involved in DUR to exchange ideas and network. As a SIG, we have continued to provide a virtual pre-conference education programme at the annual meeting every August that is generally well attended. Dr Mina Tadrous has been elected/progressed to Chair of the SIG as of August 2021 for the next 2 years.

*Douglas Steinke*

Mina Tadrous (see his bio below) invites everyone to attend an online ISPE SIG DUR symposium on **22 February 2022, 8-10AM EST**. Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ispe-dur-sig-virtual-symposium-tickets-230026845487>

The agenda of the symposium will include SIG DUR updates, strategy discussion; presentations of exciting work (rapid-fire session style); DUR announcements and updates (ongoing studies, big news, looking for collaborations); Discussion of re-launching a global collaborative project. If you want to present work or update folks, email Mina ([mina.tadrous@utoronto.ca](mailto:mina.tadrous@utoronto.ca)) before the **30th of January, 2022**. Invite other colleagues. The more the merrier is our motto so please feel free to include others who are interested.

Some more news from Canada: In Ontario we established a COVID drug utilization monitoring tool which we have been posting on a public dashboard. Link: <https://odprn.ca/covid19-ontario-prescription-drug-utilization-tool/> if people want to check it out. A collaboration headed by people at the University of Pittsburgh and University of Toronto has been leading work exploring global supply chains and drug utilization- specifically the impact of drug shortages. If people are interested in this space, please reach out to Mina.

*Mina Tadrous*

## SHORT BIO for new SIGDUR chair



Mina is an assistant professor at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto. He is a pharmacoepidemiologist and pharmacist and investigator with the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network (ODPRN). He completed a PhD in pharmacoepidemiology at the University of Toronto and previously completed a Masters in Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Tennessee, and a Doctor of Pharmacy at Albany College of Pharmacy. He also completed a pharmacy residency in Drug Information and Health Outcomes at the University of Tennessee and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Mina's research interests lie in developing real-world evidence to inform provincial and national drug policy and the post-marketing surveillance of medications. He has a keen interest in leveraging big data to answer important health care questions. Specifically, he is driven to ensure the appropriate and safe use of medications and the sustainability of public drug programs.

## Insight into ENCePP activities



The European Network of Centres for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance (ENCePP®) is a network coordinated by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The members of this network (the ENCePP partners) are public institutions and contract and research organisations involved in research in pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacovigilance. Research interests are not restricted to the safety of medicines but may for example include drug utilization research.

ENCePP held its virtual annual plenary meeting for its partners on 18 November 2021. The meeting had a number of interesting sessions where one session showed key results from observational studies on Covid-19 and discussed how ENCePP could further promote best practice for Covid-19 research. Another interesting session presented the work of the Heads of Medicines Agencies and EMA Big Data Task Force; particularly, how this work relates to the ENCePP activities that relate to quality of data sources, study design and analysis.

### **Impact of EU label changes and regulatory communication on SARS-CoV-2 adenovirus vector vaccines in context of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS): risk awareness and adherence – RiskAwareTTS**

A study involving researchers from six countries in Europe has been commissioned by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to evaluate the impact of the regulatory actions for Vaxzevria and for COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen following the 2021 review. In this context, the impact of regulatory actions means looking into: a) Whether healthcare professionals are aware and know about the risk of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome when administering these vaccines; b) Whether attitudes of healthcare professionals and general public have changed towards national COVID-19 vaccination programmes; c) Whether national COVID-19 vaccination policies were altered following the regulatory actions; and d) To determine the extent of how regulatory actions for thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) have changed national vaccination policy. The study is projected to run until July 2022.

*Anna Birna Almarsdottir*

## Insight into EMA activities



### **Data Analysis and Real World Interrogation Network (DARWIN EU)**

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is establishing a coordination centre to provide timely and reliable evidence on the use, safety and effectiveness of medicines for human use, including vaccines, from real world healthcare databases across the European Union (EU). This capability is called the **Data Analysis and Real World Interrogation Network (DARWIN EU)**. DARWIN EU will deliver **real-world evidence** from across Europe on diseases, populations and the uses and performance of medicines. This will enable EMA

and national competent authorities in the the European medicines regulatory network to use these data whenever needed throughout the lifecycle of a medicinal product.



DARWIN EU will support regulatory decision-making by:

- establishing and expanding a catalogue of observational data sources for use in medicines regulation;
- providing a source of high-quality, validated real world data on the uses, safety and efficacy of medicines;
- addressing specific questions by carrying out high-quality, non-interventional studies, including developing scientific protocols, interrogating relevant data sources and interpreting and reporting study results.

The range of approved healthcare databases enabling distributed data access via DARWIN EU will evolve and expand over time.

Source: <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/about-us/how-we-work/big-data/data-analysis-real-world-interrogation-network-darwin-eu>

*Katarina Gvozdanović*

<p><i>News from other regions/continents</i></p>	
	<p><i>Africa</i></p>

The past two years were busy on the Drug Utilisation and Pharmacoepidemiology front in Africa. Various webinars were hosted and regular meetings were held. The number of publications from our African researchers are also increasing and we are very proud to also now have a healthy footprint in the international academic literature. Many of our researchers also attended and presented at the ICPE All Access events in 2020 and 2021. The training workshops remain popular and in this way, we continue to build research capacity in the field in Africa. Descriptions on our two bigger events follow:

Medicine Utilization Research Africa Group (MURIA) hosted a Virtual Mini-Conference on 13&14<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The theme was: “Medicines utilisation research in Africa: Present status and future directions”. Topics covered included: Utilisation of medicines for non-communicable diseases (e.g. hypertension, diabetes and cancer); Antimicrobial resistance and stewardship; Medication adherence and persistence; Medicines specifically used for managing COVID-19; Other topics in the field of drug utilisation research. The virtual event was well-attended and allowed researchers who normally would not have been

able to travel to an in-person conference, to also attend. The programme and abstract book are available at <https://muria.mandela.ac.za/>

Building on the successful event in 2020, AfRIG (African Chapter of ISPE) hosted a virtual meeting from 28 to 30 June 2021. The conference theme was “Building research capacity in Pharmacoepidemiology for healthcare systems in Africa: Data networks and analytics to support patient care and medical products policy”. Dr Kwame Appenteng is the chair of ISPE Africa, supported by a team of leaders in the different regions. The programme and more information are available on the ISPE website at: <https://www.pharmacoepi.org/meetings/african-conference/>

### **Our plans for the coming year**

The 2022 conference is provisionally planned to take place around midyear in Ghana, but if not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual conference will again be hosted. The organising committee is already busy with planning the programme for the 2022 meeting.

For more information, you are welcome to contact me at: [ilse.truter@mandela.ac.za](mailto:ilse.truter@mandela.ac.za)

*Ilse Truter*



*Australia*

Like many regions and countries, COVID has significantly impacted all health research, including DUR, both in terms of access to data and research funding. One positive DU outcome in Australia during the pandemic has been the focus on DU methods and data being used directly in health policy and planning. Australia already had robust DU methods built into to health policy as part of the assessment for reimbursement and with COVID we have seen DU being directly used to monitor resources and understand patterns of use. Another area of focus is revision of the Australian National Medicines Policy. Australia’s National Medicine Policy was introduced in 2000 with a focus on: timely access to medicines at an affordable cost to individuals and society; medicines which are of an appropriate standard in terms of quality, safety and efficacy,; quality use of medicines and maintaining a responsible and viable pharmaceutical industry. The National Medicine Policy and in particular the focus on Quality Use of Medicines has facilitated development in DUR and methods tailored for Australian data. An interesting aspect of the review relevant to DUR is consideration of what is considered a medicine.

*Lisa Pont*



*Brazil*

During the past two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, the activities of the RIG were based on 3 pillars: (i) annual online symposiums focusing on important topic to the region; (ii) webinars, and (iii) research projects. The third ISPE BRAzinT Symposium and the first ISPE Symposium of the Brazilian Student



Chapter, which took place online from March 2021, was supported by the Brazilian National Regulatory Agency (Anvisa), the Federal Pharmacy Council, the Brazilian Society of Geriatrics, the Brazilian Society of Family and Community Physicians, the University of Sorocaba and the institute for the Safe Practice in The Use of Medications. Among other activities, two panels (1) - Open data: the way to build evidence for health decision making and; (2) - Using Drug Utilization Research as a Strategic Tool For Preparedness And Decision-Making In Disasters; and a stand out seminar: Highlights of Deprescribing were part of the programme. We had 11 countries participating, members from ISPE and EuroDurg, among others. We also improved the once-a-month webinars with topics suggested by members, considering methodological aspects of pharmacoepidemiology and important topics for the region. There was a total of 20 Webinars between 2019 -2021 and they already planned the detailed programme (e.g. use of RWE, machine learning, mental health in disasters, opioid use) for the first half of the year.

BrazInt RIG's motivation has always been the development of joint research projects and manuscripts, as we feel this is the motor to bring together more members and develop pharmacoepidemiology and DUR in our region/countries. From an original ISPE-financed research proposal, six research papers (which involved 40 researchers and 16 ISPE members) were drafted, one is already published (Cañas M et al PMID: 34105332). In collaboration with two other groups from ISPE (Bio SIG and RWE task force) we proposed the project “**RWE for Regulatory Decision-Making for Biosimilars: Current Uses and the Way Forward**”, with the goal to better understand how RWE is used in regulatory decision-making in all phases of the biosimilar lifecycle. This project engaged researchers from 27 countries. The third project that is running in BrazInt RIG is the “RECORD-PE TRANSLATION TO PORTUGUESE (BR)”. The RECORD-PE Translated to Portuguese (BR) was submitted to a diamond open-access journal with a South-American scientific audience, “Cadernos de Saúde Pública” (Reports in Public Health - <https://portal.fiocruz.br/en/reports-public-health>).

### **Brazilian Student Chapters**

The Brazilian student group's objective is to promote interest in Pharmacoepidemiology, engaging new researchers and increasing the quality of research and discussions carried out in Brazil. Our major goal is to promote regional consolidation and network students over the world to develop cutting-edge research in this area. The first Brazilian chapter was created in 2019. The ISPE-UFRGS chapter was the first ISPE student chapter in Latin America. The second student chapter was created in 2020 - ISPE-UNISO. Together we organized the first the ‘I Symposium of ISPE Brazilian Student Chapters’ within the ‘V International Workshop on Rational Use of Medicines’, having as a keynote speaker Dr. Sami Suissa. (<https://seriemats.com.br/programacao/>). At the same event we held the first meeting with UNISO and UFRGS chapter to present the ISPE student chapter in Brazil. Then, in 2021 we created the ISPE Brazilian Student Chapter, with the board composed by both UNISO and UFRGS chapter. We also attributed a national name (*Grupo Brasileiro de Estudantes da Sociedade Internacional de Farmacoepidemiologia – GBE/ISPE*) in an attempt to mitigate barriers related to idiom. We have elaborated an open letter presenting the GBE/ISPE that will be distributed by January 2022 to more than 20 groups working with pharmacoepidemiology as a transversal topic in Brazilian Universities. We also elaborated a mentorship program for supporting students to submit their abstracts to ISPE meetings. With these actions we expect to increase the number of Brazilian students participating actively of ISPE community.

*Luciane Cruz Lopes (Chair)*

*Claudia Osorio-de-Castro (Co-Chair), Lisiane Leal (Co-Chair)*



*Canada*

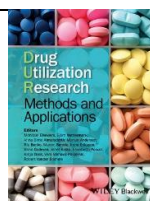
Many Canadian pharmacoepidemiologists delivered presentations, and published studies, reviews and methods papers related to drug utilization in 2021. Dr. Shanna Trenaman received the Dr. E. Keith Borden award for outstanding oral presentation by a trainee at the fall 2021 meeting of the Canadian Society for Population Therapeutics for work completed with Dr. Ingrid Sketris and others on antipsychotic dispensation to long-term care residents. [https://www.capt-actp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/20-0106\\_Trenaman-final.pdf](https://www.capt-actp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/20-0106_Trenaman-final.pdf)

In addition, the Canadian Network for Observational Drug Effect Studies ( [www.cnodes.ca](http://www.cnodes.ca)) has published 17 articles in areas such as medication adherence, pregnancy outcomes, utilization, safety and/or effectiveness of direct oral anticoagulants (DOACS), metformin and domperidone, regional variation in antibiotic use, methods studies and commentaries and a study published in PDS examining parity in female authorship in pharmacoepidemiology.

*Ingrid Sketris*

## FUTURE PLANS & EVENTS

**Second edition of the DUR book**



**2<sup>ND</sup>  
EDITION**

It is with great pleasure that we can report that the second edition of our DURbook: Drug Utilization Research: Methods and Applications is in full development. All EuroDURG board members engaged to take the responsibility for leading one of the sections of the new edition. For each section, a senior and a junior member of the EuroDURG board provided an outline of their chapters and suggested appropriate authors. Currently, most of the authors are contacted and agreed to send us a first version of their chapter in the first quarter of next year. After submission, we will start with organizing an internal review process by other editorial board members, familiar with the topic. Thereafter, the chapters will be sent out for an external review by experts in the field. Hopefully, we look forward to presenting you a new edition of the DURbook at the time of the next EuroDURG conference in Bologna in June 2023.

*Monique Elseviers*

*Upcoming conferences...*



Below we list all forthcoming English language international conferences that may interest DUR people.

Next EuroDURG conference



Details will be available soon!



2023 June, Bologna, Italy

**ISPE**

ISPE 2022 Mid-year meeting: <https://www.pharmacoepi.org/meetings/mid-year-meeting/>

ISPE 2022 Annual conference: <https://www.pharmacoepi.org/meetings/annual-conference/icpe-2022/>

ISPE annual conference: 24-28<sup>th</sup>  
August, 2022  
Copenhagen, Denmark

Abstract submission deadline:  
**13<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**



**International Society of Pharmacovigilance** (<https://isoponline.org/>)

<https://isoponline.org/annual-meetings/>

**European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics** (<https://www.eacpt.eu/>)

<https://www.eacpt2022.org/>

**European Society of Clinical Pharmacy** (<https://www.escpweb.org/>)

ESCP Spring Workshop 28-29 April 2022, Zurich, Switzerland. Taking care of patients with neurological disorders. For more information, : <https://escpweb.org/2022-spring-workshop-zürich>

ESCP Symposium 2022 in Prague: <https://escpweb.org/future-events/2022-autumn-symposium-prague>

Joint event of the Odense Deprescribing Initiative (ODIN), the Network of Northern European Researchers in Deprescribing (NERD), the Danish Society for Clinical Pharmacology (DSKF), and the University of Southern Denmark (SDU): First International Conference on Deprescribing, 5-7 September 2022, Kolding, Denmark: <https://www.conferencemanager.dk/icod2022>, <http://www.deprescribing-odin.com/#conference-section>

**Health Technology Assessment International** (<https://htai.org/>)

<https://htai.org/annual-meetings/htai-2022-utrecht/>

**European Society for Patient Adherence, Compliance, and Persistence** (<https://www.espacomp.eu/>)

<https://www.espacomp.eu/annual-meetings/>

**Nordic Pharmacoepidemiologic Network** ([www.norpen.org](http://www.norpen.org))

<https://events.tuni.fi/norpen2022/>

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