

## News from European Industrial Pharmacists Group

June, 2003

The General Assembly of the European Industrial Pharmacists Group was held on 14-15th June at the K.A.V.A., headquarters of the Pharmaceutical Society of Antwerp. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of VAPI/UPIP, the Belgian Association. EIPG delegates were invited to participate in their technical meeting and celebratory dinner on the previous day. Jane Nicholson and John Jolley represented the British Industrial Pharmacists Group, which currently holds the Presidency of E.I.P.G.



With Jane Nicholson and John Jolley are, left to right, delegates from Denmark, Finland, Portugal, Netherlands, Switzerland, Greece, Sweden, Belgium and Italy

The strategic consequences of EU enlargement were debated. There have been positive responses for membership as a result of EIPG approaches to industrial pharmacists in several applicant countries. The meeting agreed that priorities for the coming year should be to continue representation on education and training topics to appropriate European institutions. Contacts have been continued with our community and hospital sister organisations in a loose "alliance" on education and training and a joint letter has been sent to the Commission regarding free movement of pharmacists.

Following the large number of comments from various groups, including the E.I.P.G., it was reported that Annex 13, Good Manufacturing Practices for Investigational Medicinal Products, is about to be published. Several delegations felt that there could be a shortage of qualified persons following implementation of the Clinical Trials Directive. It was agreed that comments on the draft update to the E.I.P.G. Code of Practice for Qualified Persons, which now covers clinical trials, should be finalised by October and that the text should be published as the 2004 edition.

### **Working Groups:**

A working group on education and employment reported back to the General Assembly. The agreed list of subjects required in any undergraduate course for industrial pharmacists and not included in the current Directive, is to be sent to the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy. The importance of pharmacy graduates who understand pharmaceuticals and are good formulators, especially of biological products, is to be emphasised to academic staff. It was agreed that national careers information would be circulated amongst delegations and brought to the attention of academic staff as well as students.

Good contact has been established with E.P.S.A., the European student group, and delegations have been asked to provide information on post-graduate courses for industrial pharmacists as part of an E.P.S.A. initiative to promote career opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry.

A working group on continuing education (C.E.) and continuing professional development (C.P.D.) reported back to the General Assembly. The defined competencies and system of accreditation for C.E. were discussed by delegations. It was agreed that draft guidelines for European standards of C.E. / C.P.D. will be presented to a delegate meeting in October.

It was agreed that an E.I.P.G. website should be established.

The Italian delegation was elected as a Vice-President of EIPG for the next three years.

Jane Nicholson  
30/07/03