

Country report The Netherlands: Dutch Industrial Pharmacists Association (NIA)

Mission

Dutch Industrial Pharmacists Association (NIA) represents the interests of industrial pharmacists, (bio)pharmaceutical scientists and trainees with (past) employment in industrial pharmacy; as well as other academic graduates with employment in and with demonstrable, special interest in industrial pharmacy. As such, NIA promotes all aspects of industrial pharmacy.

Vision

NIA was founded in 1955, and is fully independent from pharmaceutical industries, wholesalers, companies liaised to pharma industry, and government. NIA-members are members on personal title; as such, NIA does not represent the interests of pharmaceutical companies or sectors (like innovative, generic etc.) in pharma industry.

Members

The number of NIA members was stable in 2016, starting with 497 and ending with 496. In 2016 NIA welcomed 33 new members and about 5% of the membership consists of student-members.

NIA Board 2016

Chair: Mirena Nouwen; Secretary: H.A. (Ton) Steen; Treasurer: Marcella Brouwer-Davidis; Members: Leander Q. Brouwer, Klaas A. Riepma, Jasper Lodder and Irene Goertz-Berson. The majority of NIA Board was newly elected, including Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Summary of NIA activities 2016

Many low-threshold knowledge acquisition and sharing events were organized, with drinks and/or a dinner buffet ensuite.

Digitally NIA-news brochures were released regularly; in December a printed version of the NIA-news was spread. Moreover, NIA website and LinkedIn are used in order to communicate and to host registration for events by the members.

2016 saw the one-man NIA delegate-to-EIPG (Wafelman) transfer to an EIPG section within NIA comprising Amon R. Wafelman, H.A. (Ton) Steen (also Secretary in NIA Board) and Harold Smeenge (preceding Wafelman as NIA delegate-to-EIPG). Smeenge and Steen represented NIA at EIPG GA 2016 in Paris (F).

Interaction NIA – students was facilitated by an introductory dinner for NIA Board, Board of STIP (young industrial pharmacists section of NIA) and the Board of the Royal Dutch Pharmacy Students' Association (KNPSV). This Students' Board was also invited to attend the earlier mentioned NIA events. NIA aimed at frequently presenting – on invitation by universities or students' associations - on career days / professions' days in order to inform on and awaken enthusiasm for a career in industrial pharmacy.

Section STIP organized some networking events as well as a summer event.

Two very informative gatherings with many attendants have been held by NIA's Registration Committee on the Dutch topic of reconfirmation to the Ministry of Health of our registration as practicing pharmacist, entitled to use the professional title of pharmacist. By the end of 2016 the majority of industrial pharmacists in NL had to perform this five-yearly reconfirmation for the first time, which in general went smoothly. This, however, thanks to an intensive lobby in previous years of NIA's Registration Committee as well as e.g. pharmacists working in academia, since initially the Ministry of Health intended to only preserve the title pharmacist for pharmacists practicing individual patient care.

The traditionally well attended New Year's celebrating networking event was preceded by a lecture on Expensive Medicines and a possible role for NIA members. NIA's GA 2016 was held at the Ouwehand's Zoo in Rhenen – nowadays world famous since the Panda's arrived from China. A Summer networking event was organized in Baarn where some NIA members informed us on the topic of Serialisation. In Leiden, our immediate past president Florentine Baldée-Nieuwmeijer hosted NIA at Astellas' premises for an evening symposium on when and how to perform a Recall. Product Shortages was the theme of the last lecture combined with a networking event.

NIA Board was advising member of the national project group producing the "Raamplan Farmacie", framework plan pharmacy. Through the contents of the academic curriculum pharmacy NIA aims at academia delivering freshly graduated pharmacists that possess the knowledge and competences essential for industrial pharmacy. Note: these are not legally defined, as opposed to the knowledge and competences for community and hospital pharmacy. Consequently, the Board decided to install an Education Committee.

NIA Board is in contact with KNMP (Royal Dutch Society for the Promotion of Pharmacy), DARQA (Dutch Association of Research Quality Assurance: for quality professionals in Life Sciences in the Benelux) and RegNed – NVFG (Regulatory Affairs Network of the Dutch Association for Pharmaceutical Medicine). NIA Board worked intensively together with KNMP this year on professional registration. No joint events were organized for the members in 2016.

May 2017, A.R. Wafelman Pharm.D. Ph.D., NIA delegate-to-EIPG