



## EIPG Update Report *June 2016-May 2017*

As we look forward to the 2016 EIPG Symposium and General Assembly in Paris (3<sup>rd</sup> June-5<sup>th</sup> June 2016), it is an opportune time to reflect on what has been another busy twelve months since the last gathering in Paris. The Association has continued to grow in 2016 under Chair **Gwynne Morley**. At the end of March 2017, there were 90 paid members and as many more unpaid members (student, intern membership is free).

### ***New Committee Elected***

At the PIER AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016, **Barry O’Hea** (LEO Pharma) was elected to join the PIER committee.

### ***CPD Events***

Highlights of the year included two CPD meetings and three webinars, which were the first webinars in the joint PIER/EIPG initiative.

In October 2016 PIER collaborated with EIPG to deliver a webinar ‘***Beyond the Dark Portal, the Clinical Trial Regulation – Responsible, Ambitious and Pragmatic***’ by Evgenia Mengou. The first collaborative PIER/EIPG webinar was a resounding success, with over 90 participants and receiving excellent feedback. In November 2016, PIER member Dairine Dempsey (VP Strategic Regulatory Affairs, ICON) presented ‘***Adaptive Pathways in Medicines Licensing***’ to both PIER and EIPG members. In March 2017, Anne Hayes (HPRA) and Professor Claude Farrugia (EIPG) discussed the new legislative framework for manufacturing and supply chain with their webinar titled ‘***Falsified Medicines Directive***’. The PIER committee has been delighted to work with EIPG on these webinars, which have benefited both PIER members and the wider EIPG organisation. We continue to look forward, in 2017/2018, to the continued success of current and future collaborations with EIPG.

The theme of the Autumn CPD meeting was ‘***Effective Decision Making***’ which was facilitated by career coach **Anna Rowan**. It was held in Uniphar Head Office, Citywest, Dublin. We were delighted that the Institute of Pharmacy (IloP) Executive Director **Dr Catriona Bradley** (IloP) was able to attend and provided members with an update on CPD requirements and ePortfolio to maintain Member of Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (MPSI) status.

The most recent Spring 2017 event was held in the HRA offices, Dublin. The theme was ‘***Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Pharma: Opportunities & Challenges***’, and was chaired by **Dave Shanahan**, Chair of the Health Innovation Hub Ireland. **Dr. David Coughlan** (Vice-President of



Technical Operations, DS Biopharma & a pharmacist) started the evening with a presentation focusing on his experience of drug discovery and development. DS Biopharma has developed a proprietary bioactive lipid technology platform and currently has two compounds in clinical development. David spoke about the challenges associated with the development of both API and IMP. **Clare Hughes** (Managing Director of CF Pharma Ireland) is a serial pharmacist entrepreneur and spoke about her interactions with funding programmes in Ireland and Europe, including Enterprise Ireland and Horizon 2020. CF Pharma specialises in the development of niche generics, medical devices and innovative food supplements. **Larry O'Dwyer** (Scientific Affairs Manager, HPRA) described the HPRA's activities to support innovation. The Innovation Office, launched in November 2016, offers the opportunity for innovators to submit queries in relation to innovative products and technologies within the HPRA's remit.

### ***Undergraduate & Graduate Career Support***

As in previous years, one of PIER's main objectives continues to raising awareness among pharmacy undergraduates, interns and pharmacists working in patient facing roles of the numerous career opportunities in industry.

PIER members supported a CV clinic for 4<sup>th</sup> Year pharmacy students in one of the Schools of Pharmacy RCSI in November 2016.

In February 2017 PIER organised a career evening in RCSI which was well attended (136 registered) and received good feedback. Attendees were given an overview by PIER members of a wide range of industry careers and this was followed by an interactive session in which attendees had the opportunity to meet pharmacists working in the different focus areas (e.g. Commercial, HPRA, Manufacturing, Market Access, Medical, Quality, PV, Regulatory Affairs).

Following on from the successful general interest webinars, PIER organised its first career focused webinar in February 2017. These career focus webinars aim to provide pharmacists with the opportunity to understand the wide range of roles available in the pharmaceutical industry. Pharmacists with established careers in various areas of the pharmaceutical industry are invited describe the day-to-day activities associated with their role. On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017, Natasha Littleton (Bayer Healthcare) described her role in Medical Affairs (Bayer Healthcare, Berlin). Tom O'Brien (Janssen EMEA) will present on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 on opportunities in the commercial pharma arena.

PIER also launched a pilot mentorship programme in May 2017 which aims to support experienced pharmacists working in patient facing roles looking to make the initial transition into industry or progress on from entry level roles. Throughout this programme the mentee will be partnered with a mentor who is an established industry based pharmacist and is able to offer guidance and support



in the mentee's transition. The mentee/mentor pairing will engage for a period of six months through face to face meetings or teleconference. Structured workshops to assist the mentee progress in their career will also be organised during the six month period which will be facilitated by an external consultant.

### ***Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IloP) Engagement***

2016 was a busy one for the Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IloP) with the first e-portfolio review since the roll out of the ePortfolio tool which is the platform that all registered pharmacists must record their personal CPD cycles. The ePortfolio review is the process by which pharmacists are required to submit an extract from their ePortfolio which demonstrates that they are appropriately engaging in CPD. Pharmacists can expect to be called to participate in an ePortfolio review once in every five year period.

At the Spring CPD meeting, the IloP Executive Director **Dr Catriona Bradley** provided the attendees with a live demonstration of the ePortfolio and discussed questions on the ePortfolio review.

PIER is well represented at the IloP table. Members have been acting as Peer Support Pharmacists for the past couple of years and two members are on the IloP Steering Committee.

### ***Other External Engagement***

Gwynne Morley (PIER Chairperson) is a member of the steering committee for the 2017 All Ireland Pharmacy Conference. The Conference is jointly organized and funded by a number of pharmacy organisations. Its focus is to share good practice in pharmaceutical care and practice development across the primary and secondary care sectors.

### ***The Year Ahead***

The period since the 2016 EIPG Symposium and General Assembly has been a successful one for PIER.

The PIER committee is looking forward to a busy year ahead in 2017/2018. We are planning regular webinars to expand on our CPD offering, and look forward to the continued collaboration with EIPG in these efforts.

Follow us on the PIER website (<http://www.pier.ie/news/>), Linked In (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4620247>) and Twitter (@PharmacistsIER)

PIER c/o School of Pharmacy, Cavanagh Building, University College Cork.

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