

EIPG Update Report May 2018-May 2019

As we look forward to the 2019 EIPG Symposium and General Assembly in Budapest, it is an opportune time to reflect on what has been another busy year for PIER. The Association has continued to grow in 2018/19 under Chair **Michael Morris**. Currently, there are circa 100 paid members and as many more unpaid members (student, intern, postgraduate membership is free).

New Committee Elected

At the PIER AGM on 1st December 2018, **Alexia Acedo** (Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals), **Jane O’Sullivan** (Pfizer) and **Peter Quinn** (Baxter Healthcare) were elected to join the PIER committee. Alexia has taken over as the PIER’s EIPG liaison contact from former committee member **Helen Naddy**.

CPD Events

Highlights of 2018 included two CPD meetings and three joint webinars with EIPG and UCC School of Pharmacy. Recently PIER organised the first CPD meeting of 2019.

The PIER 2018 Spring CPD meeting took place in TCD School of Pharmacy. The theme of the meeting was ***‘Getting the balance right in market access to medicines’***. Speakers included:

- **Dr Máirín Ryan** (HIQA) *‘HTA to inform health policies and clinical guidelines’*
- **Dr Róisín Adams** (NCPE) *‘Getting the balance right in market access to medicine’*
- **Muireann McAlister** (Pfizer) *‘Getting the balance right in market access to medicine—an industry perspective’*.

The PIER 2018 Autumn CPD meeting & AGM took place on Saturday 1st December 2018. The theme of the meeting was ***‘Insights into Rare Diseases’***. The agenda was as follows:

- **Dr Aoife Coughlan** (Genomics Medicine Ireland) *‘Solving the diagnostic odyssey of rare diseases in Ireland’*
- **Dr Geraldine O’Dea** (HPRA) *‘An overview of the work of the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products’*
- **Ms Linda Vittone** (Vertex) *‘From bench to bedside, the development of orphan medicines’*.



The first CPD meeting of 2019 took place recently in the Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI). The theme of this meeting was Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs). The agenda was as follows:

- **Ms Vicky McGrath** (CEO Rare Diseases Ireland) '*Rare Diseases in Ireland-Challenges & Opportunities*'
- **Dr Maura O'Donovan** (HPRA) '*The Regulation of Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products*'
- **Dr Ronan Desmond** (Consultant Haematologist, Tallaght University Hospital) '*CAR-T Cells*'.

The collaboration with EIPG to organise webinars on topics of general interest to members of both organisations has been hugely successful.

Industry Career Information

One of PIER's main objectives is to raise awareness among pharmacy undergraduate, interns and postgraduate students and pharmacists working in patient facing roles of the many career opportunities in industry.

Mentorship Programme

Following a successful pilot in 2017, PIER launched a mentorship programme which commenced on the 1st July 2018 and ran for 6 months. 13 experienced pharmacists (>3y experience) from academia, community & hospital pharmacy interested in a career in industry were matched with 13 industry based pharmacists (mentors) working in the area of expressed interest of the mentee e.g. regulatory, quality, business, medical and market access.

The programme posed a unique opportunity for all participants to informally access highly experienced pharmacists to discuss their potential career path. A workshop was facilitated by an external career coach in September 2018 for all mentees which was followed up with a closeout workshop planned in February 2019. Six of the mentees are now working in HPRA, Health Service Executive (HSE) and industry.



Career Information Events

In 2018, PIER organised two careers evening in Cork and Dublin for undergraduates, interns, postgraduates and qualified pharmacists interested in pursuing careers in the pharmaceutical industry. Attendees (120 & 200+ respectively) were invited to rotate around seven focus areas (consulting, commercial, HPRA, manufacturing/tech services, market access, medical affairs, drug safety/pharmacovigilance, quality & compliance, regulatory affairs) where they learned about some of the interesting careers in industry by chatting to pharmacists working in each particular area. Companies represented included AbbVie, Accord, Alexion, Aspen, Astellas, Bayer, Biomearin, BMS, BresMed, CUH-MRF, Deloitte, Eirgen, EY, GSK, HPRA, IQVIA, Janssen, LEO Pharma, Lilly, Mallinckrodt, MSD, Novartis, Paraxel, Perrigo, Pfizer, QM Specials, Recordati, Regeneron, Roche & Sanofi Genzyme.

Career Information Webinars

Over the past three years, PIER has organised eight career information webinars in collaboration with UCC School of Pharmacy. It is a great way to reach a wider audience to raise awareness of the multitude of roles available for pharmacists in the wider pharmaceutical industry.

In 2018/2019, four webinars have been organised on the topics of:

- 'Role of Inspector in HPRA'
- 'Opportunities for pharmacists in Quality'
- 'Opportunities for pharmacists in Health IT'
- 'Entering the world of data analytics as a pharmacist'.

EIPG Engagement

2018 saw the launch of the EIPG newsletter, which is distributed to PIER members monthly.

The webinar collaboration with EIPG and UCC School of Pharmacy has been very successful with five webinars organised since the last General Assembly.

- '*FMD Implementation-Insights from a National Medicines Verification Organisation*' (Sept 2018)
- '*Integrated Quality Management Systems*' (Oct 2018)
- '*Data Integrity*' (Dec 2018)
- '*Advances in the Management and Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease*' (Feb 2019)
- '*3D Printing*' (April 2019).

PIER submitted comments to EIPG on the following topics:

- *Revision to Annex 1 on Sterile Medicinal Products*
- *EMA Industry stakeholder meeting on Brexit*
- *EMA Draft Guideline on the responsibilities of the sponsor with regard to handling and shipping of investigational medicinal products for human use in accordance with Good Clinical Practice and Good Manufacturing Practice. Draft Guideline.*
- *Topics of discussion for Committee for Advanced Therapies Interested Parties Meeting (advised by Prof Caitriona O’Driscoll (UCC))*
- *ICH guideline Q12 on technical and regulatory considerations for pharmaceutical product lifecycle management .The Overview of Comments received on ICH guideline Q12 on technical and regulatory considerations for pharmaceutical product lifecycle management was published on 17th January 2019.*

External Engagement

Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IloP)

Formal CPD is well established in Ireland now. The Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IloP) manages the CPD process on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. The ePortfolio review is the process by which pharmacists are required to submit an extract from their portfolio which demonstrates that they are appropriately engaging in CPD reflective of their area of practice. Pharmacists can expect to be called to participate in an ePortfolio review once in every five year period.

PIER has been well represented at the IloP table since the organisation was set up in 2013. Members have been acting as Peer Support Pharmacists and two members sat on the IloP Steering Committee for five years. As IloP moves into its next phase of development, it is setting up a new Advisory Committee and PIER will be represented.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI)

PIER responded to the Public Consultation on the draft revised Code of Conduct for Pharmacists in May 2018.



Affiliation for Pharmacy Practice Experiential Learning (APPEL)

The fully integrated MPharm programme commenced in Ireland in 2015. APPEL (Affiliation for Pharmacy Practice Experiential Learning) manages the experiential learning placements of the integrated pharmacy programmes of the three Schools of Pharmacy in Ireland.

The first main practice placement (4 months at the start of 4th year) can be undertaken in a non-patient facing setting. PIER had been actively encouraging members to offer placements and members really delivered as almost 40 industry placement were available which represented about 23% of the placements required (50% increase from 4+1 degree programme). This is a hugely positive development as pharmacists are underrepresented in the pharmaceutical industry in Ireland considering its extensive footprint when compared with our European counterparts. It is expected that there will be over 50 industry based placement available for the next cohort who commence placement in September 2019.

Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU)

The Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) is the representative and professional body for community pharmacists in Ireland.

PIER supported Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) market research around recruitment and retention of pharmacists in community pharmacy. In recent years, many community and indeed hospital pharmacists have transitioned to industry roles with many more looking to make the transition. The main reason is the lack of career progression opportunities for patient facing pharmacists.

Schools of Pharmacy

'Pharmacy Forum on Leading Medication Safety Across Ireland'

The World Health Organisation's 3rd Global Patient Safety Challenge focuses on Medication Without Harm. The challenge was launched in 2017, and aims to reduce serious, avoidable medication related harm globally by 50% between the years 2017-2022.

PIER members attended the '*Pharmacy Forum on Leading Medication Safety Across Ireland*' inaugural meeting in Trinity College Dublin in Nov 2018 which was the initial discussion about how pharmacy from all strands of the profession across the whole island of Ireland can rise to this challenge. **Dr Catherine Duggan** (FIP CEO) attended this meeting.



AMBER Site Visit

In May 2019, PIER members attended a meeting at AMBER (Advanced Materials and BioEngineering Research) which is a Science Foundation Ireland funded centre that provides a partnership between leading researchers in materials science and industry (www.ambercentre.ie). There are three academic pharmacist principal investigators in AMBER: **Professor Annemarie Healy** (TCD School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences), **Professor Sally Ann Cryan** (RCSI School of Pharmacy) and **Dr Cian O’Leary** (RCSI School of Pharmacy). Each presented on their cutting edge research. Attendees had the opportunity to visit the centre’s imaging suites and 3D printing labs.

IPSA/EPISA French Pharmacy Students Exchange

PIER supported the Irish Pharmacy Students Association (IPSA) who hosted 30 French pharmacy students from Lyon under an EPISA exchange programme (17th-24th February 2019). Site visits were facilitated by PIER members in Alexion Pharmaceuticals and Pfizer Grange Castle. The PIER Chair **Michael Morris** and committee member **Alexia Acedo** met the students on Saturday 23rd February 2019 at an information and networking event.

The Year Ahead

The past year has been another successful one for PIER. The PIER committee looks forward to a busy year ahead in 2019/2020 and continued collaboration with EIPG.

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