

Berichten

Call for papers

Conference on Pharmaceutical Policy Analysis, including socio-cultural, economic, regulatory and epidemiological aspects of pharmaceuticals and international health: 19-21 September 2007, Zeist, The Netherlands

Why this Conference?

Pharmaceutical policy analysis is increasingly acknowledged as an important instrument to drive and evaluate evidence-based policy making on pharmaceuticals. In a world with ample diversity in perspectives and opinions about how to prioritise and regulate pharmaceutical policies, and where to intervene in daily practice, robust data and valid research methodologies can, and should, make a difference. However, despite all the enthusiasm and support for pharmaceutical policy research, we have to admit that the scientific quality of the field is yet rather limited in terms of impact on policy makers and visibility in high-impact journals. This Conference aims to change this landscape.

Format of the meeting

More than fifteen years ago an influential meeting was held in Woudschoten, The Netherlands on Social and Cultural Aspects of Pharmaceuticals. The meeting was organized by the Department of Medical Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam (Sjaak van der Geest & Anita Hardon). This meeting was so successful because of the challenging and interactive format, which focussed on intensively discussing and improving the papers submitted by all participants.

In the 2007 Conference on Pharmaceutical Policy Analysis, we want to use this method to:

- Build knowledge on the basis of a discussion of Pharmaceutical Policy.
- Analysis papers submitted and reviewed in advance of the meeting.
- Focus on methods for Pharmaceutical Policy Analysis as a long-term outcome to fuel the field.
- Create commitment to deliver publications in high-impact journals.

Contents of the Conference

The theme for the conference will be broadly interpreted to encourage submission of a range of papers on various topics related to international policy aspects of pharmaceuticals. These could include: prioritising in and barriers to pharmaceutical innovation. drug utilization aspects, regulatory issues, economical questions, cross-cultural

aspects of medicines' efficacy, safety and usage, quality indicators, methods of pharmaceutical policy analysis, effectiveness of rational use interventions, promotional practices, role of consumers, access to medicines, and international health. Ultimately, it will be the quality of the papers which determines the contents of the meeting.

Procedure

We are calling for abstracts to be submitted dealing with these and other themes that fit in the overall scope of the meeting. Once accepted, meeting participants will be asked to write and submit papers before 15 April 2007. These papers will be reviewed by two participants and these reviews will be posted on a password protected web site. A discussant will be identified and asked to prepare detailed comments on the paper for presentation in the conference.

At the meeting, there will be a limited number of plenary sessions with keynote speakers. Most of the time will be spent in smaller groups discussing four or five papers that have been pre-circulated. The author of the paper will be given a short time to introduce their paper and then the discussant will have ten minutes to make detailed comments about the paper. After the four or five papers have been introduced in this way, at least an hour will be reserved for general discussion. Each group will have an experienced chair and rapporteur who will summarize the discussions in plenary sessions at the end of the day.

Time Lines

- 1) Abstracts submitted 15 December 2006
- 2) Acceptance yes/no sent out electronically 15 January 2007
- 3) First draft submitted 15 April 2007
- 4) Sent for Review to two accepted participants 30 April 2007
- 5) Reviews sent to author and posted on private website 30 May 2007
- 6) Paper revised and posted on private web site 15 July 2007
- 7) Discussant identified and asked to prepare commentary 1 August 2007
- 8) Conference 19-21 September 2007

Abstracts must be prepared in English only. The text should not exceed 300 words. The text of the abstract should briefly state:

- Objectives (indicate the purpose of the study)
- Methods (include the setting for the study, the problem or issue studied, the subjects involved, if an intervention was tested)
- Results (present as clearly as possible)
- Conclusion (briefly discuss the data and emphasize the significance of the results).

Further information

Pieter Stolk
pharmapolicy2007@pharm.uu.nl / p.stolk@pharm.uu.nl
P.O. Box 80082, 3508 TB Utrecht The Netherlands