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ACCREDITATION OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES IN PHARMACEUTICAL MEDICINE

In 2002, the Council for Education in Pharmaceutical Medicine (CEPM) decided to initiate a programme intended to ensure that the various teaching programmes of existing Postgraduate Courses in Pharmaceutical Medicine were adequate in their content and that the examination techniques used to assess the knowledge of the students would allow a mutual recognition of the Diplomas in Pharmaceutical Medicine awarded by the Universities teaching this medical discipline.

Most of these courses were the result of a collaboration between the local national association of pharmaceutical physicians and a University, but without the supervision of an international centralising body. Therefore, there was a need to ensure a harmonisation of their programmes on the basis of a standard curriculum.

The harmonisation process was initiated by the establishment of a CEPM standard syllabus and a list of essential lectures which would be used by CEPM evaluators to test the existing postgraduate programmes in the different parts of the world. At the end of the evaluation visits the Course Directors were to be informed of the changes or additions that had to be made to their course programme before accreditation by the CEPM could be awarded.

The evaluation visits started in 2003 and a first series of postgraduate courses were accredited after their programme had been revised in order to comply with the standard “CEPM Programme of Education in Pharmaceutical Medicine”.

The present status of the harmonisation and accreditation processes is as follows.

The Postgraduate Courses in Pharmaceutical Medicine have been accredited at:

- The University of Brussels since August 2003
- The University of Surrey (London) since September 2003
- The University of Cardiff since February 2004
- The University of Stockholm since June 2004
- The University of Basel since December 2004
- The University of Barcelona since April 2005

- The University of Madrid since November 2005
- The University of Dublin since September 2006
- The University of Belgrade since December 2006
- The University of Mexico since February 2007
- The University of Duisburg-Essen since December 2007
- The University of São Paulo since February 2008

Evaluation visits are planned for the period 2009 - 2010 at:

- The University of Buenos Aires
- The University of Milan
- The University of Rome
- The University of Sydney

Full details concerning the accredited postgraduate courses mentioned above can be found on the IFAPP web site in the section “Education/courses”.

The standard syllabus titled “IFAPP Syllabus for Postgraduate courses in Pharmaceutical Medicine” and the list of essential lectures titled “Core curriculum for Education in Pharmaceutical Medicine” can be found on the IFAPP web site in the section “Education/about CEPM” and should be used by any organisation or association intending to establish a postgraduate course in pharmaceutical medicine.