

Spring Meeting, Cabo Verde, 10th till 12 of May, 2006



The Spring Meeting took place in Cabo Verde from the 10th till 12th of May. It was a great meeting, very well organized with an active participation of the colleagues from Cabo Verde. 22 colleagues attended this meeting to discuss Quality of Pharmaceutical Products. We had colleagues from Portugal, Ghana, Belgium and already mentioned Cabo Verde, representing several institutions, from pharmacies to hospitals, governmental and non-governmental.

This Spring Meeting was very special and extremely well-organised by our colleague Judith Lima from Inpharma Laboratories, who was fantastic to all participants in kindness and hospitality. All participants appreciated very much the Spring Meeting of this year and we all left Cabo Verde quite impressed by such well-organised meeting. This meeting will surely be reminded for many years. Our special thanks to Judith Lima.

On the 11th of May the section organizes a workshop under the theme “Strengthening collaboration between LMCS and African Countries – Identifying patterns of future collaboration”. The conclusions of the workshop are resumed below.



Workshop conclusions

Rationale

Pharmaceutical activities, particularly those closely related to the laboratory support through the medicines lifecycle, are strongly demanding of qualified human resources and heavy financial investments. Moreover, the intensity of these activities in technology and knowledge may only be satisfied through the development of knowledge networks, dynamic enough to allow a fast transfer of information as well as a close sharing of valuable know-how.

LMCS has developed over the last decade a vast number of laboratory activities, within the scope of the quality of pharmaceuticals and laboratory performance. This has allowed the involvement of a large number of countries from all continents.

Although these activities have fulfilled the objective of bringing together colleagues/laboratories, it seems that there are still vast opportunities approached through a more focused action, down to the one-to-one collaboration level.

General description and main goals

A general proposal was presented to participants (European and African countries), which aims bringing together skills-to-wills.

Through a work methodology to be established and validated those laboratories or those institutions that require laboratory support, will collaborate in previously identified fields, supporting each other, in order to reduce development times of new activities and increase productivity of those already in place.

A Step wise work proposal was agreed, which will consist of the following steps:

1. Identify interested potential partners;

2. Have a preliminary exploration of the development fields and establish priorities (which may vary according to each institution position and needs);
3. Develop coaching relationships in a one-to-one scope;
4. Obtain financial support (It is however recognised that a number of activities may be developed in a low cost basis, thus neglecting the need of heavy financial resources).

Identified development fields

Participants mentioned, as fields for collaboration, the following:

- Implementation and management of Quality Assurance Systems, aiming the accreditation of laboratories/analytical techniques. Here the scope of activity may focus in i) the support to the construction of a QA systems, namely ISO 17025; ii) training; iii) internal audits; iv) calibration/maintenance programmes.
- Structure/facilities layout and design qualification and subsequent IQ, OQ and PQ procedures;
- Technical fields, where the following have been stressed: i) Technology transfer; resource sharing; Materials supplies, where reference materials could be a starting point;
- Organisation and evaluation of drug products documentation and registration files;
- General training. Besides QA training, analytical training would be welcome.
- Compounding. The support in the development of this type of medicines seems an area of top interest. LEF owns a call center for the technical support which may start to be immediately used. Moreover, the preparation of product monographs may also be implemented covering needs from different countries;

Next Steps

Following revision of these conclusions by participants the following steps may be taken:

- A priority based manifestation of interests by potential partners to LEF;
- Identification of each laboratory/institution competences/actives that may give an input to collaboration projects;
- Drawing of specific projects, which should already identify field of application, partners and milestones.