



International Society of Pharmacovigilance

Committed to safer use of medicines worldwide

General Assembly 14th October 2020 18.00-20.00 UTC (via Zoom)

Present:

Society President Mira Harrison-Woolrych, Rebecca Chandler (Vice-President), Deirdre McCarthy (Secretary General), and Jean-Christophe Delumeau (Treasurer).

Advisory Board members: Angela Caro, Jan Petraček, Mónica Tarapués, Manal Younus, Li Zhang, Sten Olsson (Past President), and 80 Society members.

Apologies: Gianluca Trifirò (Advisory Board member)

Chairs: Society President Mira Harrison-Woolrych and Secretary General Deirdre McCarthy.

Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, housekeeping
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes GA Bogota
3. ISO P activities in 2020
 - 3.1 Moving to online/webinar concept
 - 3.2 Patient Safety Day events
 - 3.3 ISO P Infographic project
4. Communications Strategy
5. Financial Report
6. Membership Report
7. Report from Chapters
8. Report on SIGs
9. Report from CIOMS
10. Fellowship Awards
11. Looking forward: plans for next year

1/ Welcome

President Mira Harrison-Woolrych opened the virtual General Assembly by warmly welcoming members.

This year, the ISO P's 2020 General Assembly was held via video-conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent postponement of the Oman annual meeting.



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2/ Approval of the Agenda and Minutes GA Bogota

President Mira Harrison-Woolrych requested approval of the agenda, as well as approval of the Bogota GA minutes, which were accepted by the General Assembly (the Bogota GA minutes have been posted on the ISO P website).

3/ ISO P activities in 2020

3.1 Moving to online/webinar concept

Since its creation, ISO P was founded on the concept of face-to-face meetings. But due to the COVID-19 pandemic ISO P has developed training and other events based on virtual concepts.

President Mira Harrison-Woolrych explained that ISO P has purchased Zoom-Pro licenses with webinar capability and any ISO P co-ordinator now has the opportunity to host ISO P meetings or record presentations from their region or special interest group.

The President outlined the virtual activities that occurred during the year:

- Pharmacovigilance Journal Club
- Africa Chapter meeting
- Israel Chapter Hot Summer of Drug Safety Webinars
- Egypt and Middle East Chapter webinars
- NASoP meetings
- Prague Pharmacovigilance meeting (hybrid)
- Western Pacific Chapter Meeting
- World Patient Safety Day events
- Boston seminar/webinar (to be held in December 2020)

3.2 Patient Safety Day events

This ISO P event for World Patient Safety Day was held on 16th and 17th September and organised by Angela Caro from the Medication Errors SIG, supported by Zoom Pro, Facebook live stream, and the ISO P YouTube channel.

It was a global, free event with 34 presentations across four different time zones. 1,677 people registered for these activities.

President Mira Harrison-Woolrych warmly thanked Angela Caro and her team for a very successful initiative.

ISO P will gift ISO P memberships to these volunteers, as a mark of ISO P's gratitude for their help with this important event.

World Pharmacist Day 2020

On 25th September, ISO P posted a statement in support of the work of pharmacists



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worldwide on the ISO P website and social media.

Plans are underway to build on this next year with an article for an international journal. President Mira Harrison-Woolrych thanked Professor Jo Barnes, Head of the Western Pacific Chapter, for suggesting ISO P supports this day each year.

3.3 ISO P Infographic project

President Mira Harrison-Woolrych summarized the aim of this project which began in early 2020, to develop easily understandable information about medicines utilization and key safety issues e.g. for prevention of medication error.

A team including Mira Harrison-Woolrych, Priya Bahri (Head of Risk Comms SIG), Angela Caro, Deirdre McCarthy, Gabriela Duran, and Sophie Spence have developed ISO P's first infographic on the safe use of medicines during COVID-19. It is available online in six primary and several other languages.

4. Communications Strategy

Deirdre McCarthy, ISO P Secretary General and COMMS Leader, presented her Communication plan report and COMMS achievements during 2020.

Highlights:

- Employment of a Social Media Manager (Gabriela Durán) and establishment of a dedicated ISO P COMMS team.
- Infographic on the safe use of medicines in COVID-19 disseminated widely, including to key global organisations.
- Strong social media presence: Twitter & LinkedIn, with Facebook and Instagram added in 2020.
- Promotion of Patient Safety Day on social media.
- Membership email newsletter launched – 2 editions sent out (bimonthly) – positive feedback from members.
- Membership benefit poster published.
- Logo and ISO P slide template refresh.
- 5 *Drug Safety* articles published in 2020

5. Financial Report

Treasurer Jean-Christophe Delumeau presented an overview of the current Society's finances prepared by the accountants in Geneva showing a surplus of EUR 15'000 as of 2020.09.30, a stable position despite the COVID crisis and the postponement of ISO P meetings.

The Zoom webinar platform, for instance, will enable attendance at events to be charged for, and a new operating model based upon virtual or hybrid events has been agreed upon. The situation is being closely monitored alongside the evolution of the pandemic and its



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impact.

The accounts were accepted by the General Assembly.

Jean-Christophe Delumeau proposed a new membership model which takes into account the current situation in most Low and Middle-Income countries (LMICs). A reduced fee program was suggested as follows:

- Global Students Membership (any country): 75 EUR including *Drug Safety* online subscription
- Chapter Membership (LMICs only): 55 EUR without *Drug Safety* subscription

Regular fees will be unchanged in 2021:

- Full rate: 215 EUR (including *Drug Safety* online subscription) applicable to High-Income Countries (HICs) according to the World Bank
- Reduced rate: 95 EUR (including *Drug Safety* online subscription) applicable to Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) and Retired.

This proposal was approved by the General Assembly.

Post-GA note from the ISoP Treasurer:

Subsequent to the GA, Springer Nature agreed to reduce the amount charged to members from LMICs for accessing the *Drug Safety* journal. This resulted in the ISoP EC's decision in November 2020 to further reduce membership fees applicable to LMICs. Please refer to www.isoonline.org for details.

6. Membership Report

Deirdre McCarthy presented the current membership figures as at 30/9/2020, totalling 792 members in 94 countries.

ISoP members are distributed worldwide as follows:

Americas	43.0 %
Europe	26.0 %
Asia	14.5 %
Africa	7.0 %
Middle East	7.0 %
Oceania	2.5 %

7. Report from Chapters

Rebecca Chandler, the ISoP Chapters co-ordinator, provided updates regarding the ISoP Chapters - many have engaged in at least one activity over the year (virtual meetings, publications, social media development).



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New Egypt Chapter

Rebecca Chandler officially launched the new chapter from Egypt which is led by Hadir Rostom.

Rebecca Chandler formally announced the formation of a single LATAM Chapter, merging the previously separate LATAM and Mexico Chapters. All LATAM members were notified in October 2020 (prior to the ISO P GA) and elections for the new LATAM chapter leadership positions will be held in the first quarter of 2021.

8. Report on Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Angela Caro, the ISO P SIGs co-ordinator, reported updates and contributions from the SIGs and welcomed the ISO P Pharmacogenomics SIG.

Led by Qun-Ying Yue, from the Uppsala Monitoring Centre, this new SIG will aim to create opportunities for those researching and investigating pharmacogenomics to network, exchange experiences, and provide support to healthcare professionals and organizations, as well as organise and support, training and tutorials for pharmacovigilance centres.

9. Report from CIOMS

Manal Younus, ISO P CIOMS representative, reported back on CIOMS Working Group XI.

Launched in April 2018, the Working Group XI Patient Involvement in the Use of Medicines aims to “provide a comprehensive overview of present knowledge and existing initiatives and will address a wide range of the remaining challenges and practice gaps”. Participants are patient organizations, industry, regulators, academia, and the World Medical Association. ISO P is part of this Working Group and is represented by Sten Olsson, Brian Edwards, and Manal Younus.

For more details: <https://cioms.ch/working-groups/working-group-xi-patient-involvement/>

10. Fellowship Awards

Fellows of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance are members who have demonstrated significant achievement and distinction in their field, including peer recognition in pharmacovigilance. ISO P Fellows have made substantial contributions to the discipline of pharmacovigilance through their work (including publications or similar outputs) and have also shown service to the Society, for example, by involvement in ISO P meetings, and/or by leadership of ISO P Chapters and Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

President Mira Harrison-Woolrych announced the 2020 cohort of ISO P Fellows recommended by the FNCS and approved by the EC.

They are (in alphabetical order):

- ★ Joanne Barnes



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- ★ Jean-Christophe Delumeau
- ★ Brian Edwards
- ★ Joerg Hasford
- ★ Véronique Kugener
- ★ Sten Olsson
- ★ Jan Petraček
- ★ Victoria Rollason
- ★ Santiago Schiaffino
- ★ Saad Shakir
- ★ Marco Tuccori
- ★ Li Zhang

Congratulations to all new fellows!

11. Looking forward: plans for next year

President Mira Harrison-Woolrych outlined the ISO P meetings planned for the year ahead as follows:

- Boston Seminar December 2020 (virtual)
- More online chapter meetings expected in 2021
- Mid-year meeting in Moscow April 2021
- World Patient Safety Day September 2021
- ISO P annual meeting in Oman October 2021

The EC will continue to monitor the global pandemic situation regarding international conferences during early 2021. Decisions as to whether training courses or other ISO P meetings may be held face-to-face, online, or as hybrid meetings will be made closer to the dates of the above meetings.

To expand ISO P globally and continue to support the needs of members, President Mira Harrison-Woolrych informed the Assembly of the establishment of a **Scoping Group** which will consider all concepts and ideas regarding future developments in our professional society. Ideas proposed by Board members include building a globally-recognised PV certification process, or the creation of a multidisciplinary Scientific Board to provide training and education resources for ISO P members.

This Scoping Group will be co-chaired by Jean-Christophe Delumeau and Jan Petraček, along with Advisory Board members Mónica Tarapués, Manal Younus and Li Zhang.

The Group will prepare a paper for consideration by the Executive Committee in early 2021 with conclusions to be reported at the ISO P General Assembly in October 2021.

We hope to see ISO P members and other colleagues at the next Annual Meeting in Muscat, Oman 11 to 14 October 2021.



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Remarks from the audience

22 questions from members were received on the Zoom Q&A, including interest in a SIG on PV in geriatric patients, and medical devices, and were answered live by the Advisory Board (AB) members.

For any additional or outstanding questions, members were requested to email them to administration@isoponline.org.

The virtual meeting closed at 20.30 UTC.

Signature:

Date:

Mira Harrison-Woolrych, President

Deirdre McCarthy, Secretary General