



Exploratory Workshop Scheme

Scientific Review Group for the Bio-Medical Sciences

ESF Exploratory Workshop on

# Enhancing the quality and safety of pharmacotherapy in old age

Ghent (Belgium), June 12-14 2014

Convened by:  
**Monique Elseviers<sup>①②</sup>, Robert Vander Stichele<sup>①</sup>**

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The European Science Foundation (ESF) was established in 1974 to provide a common platform for its Member Organisations to advance European research collaboration and explore new directions for research. Currently it is an independent organisation, owned by 67 Member Organisations, which are research funding organisations, research performing organisations and academies from 29 countries.

ESF is in a period of transition; the ESF Member Organisations (MO's) have indicated that they would like to wind down certain ESF activities, such as EUROCORES, RNP's, ECRP's and Forward Looks by the end of 2015, but ESF will continue to honour its existing commitments until the projects are finalised.

In 2013 the only research instrument that will have a call for proposals is the Exploratory Workshops. The focus of the Exploratory Workshops scheme is on workshops aiming to explore an emerging and/or innovative field of research or research infrastructure, also of interdisciplinary character. Workshops are expected to open up new directions in research or new domains. It is expected that a workshop shall conclude with plans for follow-up research activities and/or collaborative actions or other specific outputs at international level.

ESF is also currently exploring new areas where we could serve the science community. Services we have identified that would leverage our expertise and experience and provide added-value to the science community are: peer review, evaluation, research conferences and career tracking.

Please check our website ([www.esf.org](http://www.esf.org)) for regular updates regarding ESF and its future developments.

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### **Main Objectives of the Workshop:**

The ESF exploratory meeting will focus on the problems encountered in the pharmacological care for old adults, aiming to develop an adapted set of prescribing quality indicators useful for the regular electronic monitoring of the quality of prescribing in older adults using existing data collection systems of medication lists and available clinical parameters.

Most knowledge needed to improve the safety and efficacy of pharmacotherapy and to develop a set of prescribing quality indicators is available, albeit in fragmented format spread over many research institutions. The meeting will be used to bring all available knowledge together and to organize expert discussions for selection of criteria useful to develop an electronic assessment tool.

### **Exploratory and innovative value**

The health of old adults and the associated quality of pharmacological care is a neglected area of research in our society. Pharmaceutical industry mainly focuses on the use of their products in younger adults. Older patients, with their polyopathy and associated polypharmacy, are never used to document the effectiveness and efficacy of pharmaceutical products and were seldom involved in safety research. Within this ESF meeting, safety issues will be addressed by an harmonization of the terminology used in the field of pharmacovigilance in old adults and by exploring all available evidence to adapt drug therapy to the specific requirements of the very old (dose reductions and deprescribing, specific drug reactions and drug-drug interactions). On the other hand, an inventory will be made of all lists of inappropriate prescribing to generate a PIM score based on the medications mainly used in old adults of European member states. Once the requirements of safety and efficacy are clearly established in a general framework, a set of prescribing quality indicators will be proposed to monitor pharmacological care in old adults on a regular and automated way.



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## Workshop Agenda

### Preparatory documents

A key aspect of this workshop will be the selection of PIM scores useful for the electronic assessment of safety and quality of pharmacotherapy in old age. A workdocument will be prepared with an inventory of published PIM scores together with the required clinical information needed to perform the scoring.

In order to facilitate the discussion on the terminology of drug related problems, a glossary of terms and definitions used in this field will be distributed to all participants by the start of the workshop handling this topic.

### Involvement of delegates in the ESF workshop

Participants of the workshop were selected on the base of their diverse expertise (safety, quality, PIM scoring systems, quality indicators...) in the field of pharmacotherapy in advanced age. Their expertise will be intensively used during the meeting by inviting them to give a presentation related to their scientific involvement in this field.

**Although all delegates were contacted and confirmed their attendance, the proposed presentations still need to be confirmed by the participants.**

The presentations (**P**) on the different aspects of pharmacotherapy will be followed by workshops (**WS**) and panel discussions (**PD**) to obtain a common proposal for an electronic assessment aiming to improve the safety and quality of pharmacotherapy in old age.

## Report publication and dissemination

This ESF meeting will focus on pharmacological care in older adults aiming to improve the safety and quality of treatment and to avoid inappropriate prescribing for frail elderly living at home as well as for nursing home residents.

Deliverables will be:

- The development of a conceptual framework based on evidence based recommendations to adapt pharmacological treatment to the specific requirements of safety and quality in caring for old adults
- A clear classification of the different stages of drug related problems in the elderly
- An inventory of published lists of inappropriate prescribing criteria
- An expert based proposal of a general PIM list adapted to the European drug market and useful for regular automated monitoring of existing data collection systems taking into account the presence and the amount of available clinical information
- A set of prescribing quality indicators to evaluate pharmacological care of old adults taking into account safety as well as efficacy issues

As a direct outcome of the workshop, these deliverables will be included in the scientific report of workshop.

Concrete actions for a broad dissemination of the results will be developed in the final session of the workshop. Also additional initiatives for the development of a collaborative research project at the European level will be discussed using the proposed assessment tools to develop a longterm follow-up program aiming to investigate the associated health outcome in advanced age.



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## PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

### Thursday, 12 June 2014

Morning	<i>Arrival</i>
12.30-14.30	<i>Lunch – informal welcome at conference place</i>
13.30-13.40	<b>Welcome by Convenors</b> <b>Monique Elseviers and Robert Vander Stichele</b> (Ghent University, Belgium)
13.40-14.00	<b>Presentation of the European Science Foundation (ESF)</b> <b>Roger Bouillon</b> (Scientific Review Group for the Bio-Medical Sciences)
<b>14.00-18.00</b>	<b>Session1: Conceptual framework of safety and quality of pharmacotherapy in old age</b>
14.00-14.20	<b>P: Introduction: Epidemiology and perspectives of the old age population, health profile, pharmacotherapy and drug related problems</b> <b>Monique Elseviers</b> (Ghent University, Belgium)
14.20-14.40	<b>P: Development of a conceptual framework of safety and quality</b> <b>Robert Vander Stichele</b> (Ghent University, Belgium)
14.40-15.00	<b>P: Safety of pharmacotherapy in old age</b> <b>Jeffrey Aronson</b> (Oxford University, United Kingdom)
15.00-15.20	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
15:20-16:20	<b>WS-PD: Terminology in the field of drug related problems</b> <b>Introduced by Tinne Dilles</b> (Antwerp University, Belgium)
16:20-16:40	<b>P: Quality of pharmacotherapy in old age</b> <b>Petra Denig</b> (Groningen University, the Netherlands)
16:40-17.00	<b>P: Deprescribing in old age</b> <b>Flora Haaijer Ruskamp</b> (Groningen University, the Netherlands)
17:00-18:00	<b>PD: Defining a conceptual framework of safety and quality</b> <b>Convenor: Robert Vander Stichele</b> (Ghent University, Belgium)
19.00	<i>Dinner</i>



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## Friday 13 June, 2014

- 09.00-12.30**      **Session2: Potentially inappropriate medication (PIM) lists for the assessment of safety and quality of pharmacotherapy in old age**
- 09.00-10:00      **P: Presentations of established PIM lists: development, content, applications (3x20')**  
**Petra Thürmann** (Helios Klinikum, Wuppertal, Germany)  
**Sabine Ruths** (University of Bergen, Norway)  
**Denis O'Mahony** (Cork University Hospital, Ireland)
- 10.00-10.40      **PD: Inventory of published PIM lists**  
**Introduced by Majda Azermai** (Ghent University, Belgium)
- 10.40-11.00      *Coffee / Tea Break*
- 14.00-14.45      **P: Experiences with the regular use of PIM lists (3x20')**  
**Hege Salvesen Blix** (Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway).  
**Katja Taxis** (University of Groningen, the Netherlands)  
**Kristina Johnell** (Karolinska University, Stockholm, Sweden)
- 12.00-12.30      **PD: Published PIM lists: inventory of required associated clinical data**  
**Introduced by Majda Azermai** (Ghent University, Belgium)
- 12.30-14.00      *Lunch*
- 14.00-18.00**      **Session3: Assessment of safety and quality of pharmacotherapy in old age**
- 14.00-15:00      **P: Presentations of established assessment tools: development, content, applications (3x20')**  
**Paul Jansen** (University Medical Centre, Utrecht, the Netherlands)  
**Rupert Payne** (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom)  
**Tuomas Koskela** (University of Tampere, Finland)
- 15.00-15.30      **PD: Requirements for the regular electronic assessment of safety and quality**  
**Introduced by Robert Vander Stichele** (University of Ghent, Belgium)
- 15.30-16.00      *Coffee / tea break*
- 16.00-17.30      **WS: Selection of PIM scores for the regular electronic assessment of safety and quality**  
**Introduced by Monique Elseviers** (University of Ghent, Belgium)
- 17.30-18.00      **PD: Selection of PIM scores for the regular electronic assessment of safety and quality**  
**Convenor Robert Vander Stichele** (University of Ghent, Belgium)
- 19.00              *Dinner*



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## Saturday 14 June 2014

<b>09.00-10.30</b>	<b>Session4: Defining prescribing quality indicators in advanced age</b>
09.00-09.30	<b>P: Prescribing quality indicators: theoretical background and specific requirements in view of safety and quality in advanced age</b> <b>Petra Denig, Flora Haaijer Ruskamp</b> (University of Groningen, the Netherlands)
09.30-10.40	<b>WS+PD Selection of prescribing quality indicators in advanced age</b> <b>Convenor Robert Vander Stichele</b> (University of Ghent, Belgium)
10.40-11.00	<i>Coffee / Tea Break</i>
<b>11.00-12:30</b>	<b>Session5: Future perspectives</b>
11.00-11.20	<b>P: Integration of the assessment of quality and safety of pharmacotherapy in the RAI data collection</b> <b>Daniela Fialová</b> (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic)
11:20-12.20	<b>WS+PD Dissemination of the results and future research perspectives</b> <b>Convenor Monique Elseviers</b> (University of Ghent, Belgium)
12:20-12.30	<b>P Closing remarks</b> <b>Robert Vander Stichele</b> (University of Ghent, Belgium)
12:30	<i>End of Workshop and departure</i>



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## **Objectives of the ESF Scientific Review Group for the Bio-Medical Sciences**

The **ESF Scientific Review Group for the Bio-Medical Sciences** has overall responsibility for initiating and coordinating ESF's scientific activities in medical sciences and for providing expert advice on issues of science policy. It covers a broad range of disciplines and the Scientific Review Group's main objectives range from promoting interactions between the biomedical and clinical research communities, through providing policy advice, to stimulating collaboration in emerging research areas.

The Scientific Review Group for the Bio-Medical Sciences covers fields such as:

- Diagnostic and therapeutic medicine
- Neurobiology
- Immunology
- Clinical studies
- Communicable diseases
- Human genetics & functional genomics
- Medicinal biotechnology
- Public Health, etc.

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