

June 2011

Newsletter

EAASM stages an important conference on the Falsified Medicines Directive – a new piece of EU law that will help stop counterfeiters of medicines in their tracks

Our last newsletter featured breaking news on the passage of Falsified Medicines Directive (FMD) through the European Parliament. Since then the EAASM has planned and held a major one-day conference, "Counter-Punching the Counterfeiter", bringing together interested parties from throughout the supply chain. The programme enabled a common understanding to be developed on how the FMD will affect medicines supply "from maker to taker" and how all concerned can work together in the interests of patient safety. A highlight was a short introductory video to endorse and start the conference off by Marisa Matias, who is the MEP championing the FMD. The video will shortly be available on www.eaasm.eu





Jim Thomson Chair



Mike Isles Executive Director

One crucial aspect of the FMD is that each pack of medicine will have a unique identifying code that can be authenticated at pharmacy level. This unique code will be linked to a common database and will verify if that medicine has actually come from a genuine manufacturer of medicines. In addition, the special feature carrying the code can hold other information that would enable healthcarers and patients to access useful information on their medication and condition. Over 60 delegates from all over Europe attended and all of the EAASM objectives were fully met.

EAASM is delighted to welcome two new funding members, Novartis and CareFusion. Thanks for your faith in what we exist to do and for your much-needed support.



Medicines Directive
Prepares to Punch its
Weight

A one-day EAASM conference in partnership with the Global Forum. 4th May 2011

WikiFakes An insider's

view from the EAASM's guest Sleuths....

Following on from our last WikiFake, we're delighted to report that on 18 April, Peter Gillespie (64) of Windsor, Berkshire, was sentenced to eight years imprisonment. His operation was the most serious known breach of the UK regulated medicines supply and the conviction marked the culmination of years of investigation by the MHRA, codenamed "Operation Singapore".

More than 2 million doses of fake life saving drugs were imported into the UK and, although more than half of these were seized by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), almost 900,000 doses reached pharmacies and patients.



MHRA Head of Enforcement, Mick Deats said: "This outcome sends a clear message to those involved, or contemplating involvement in, the manufacture and supply of counterfeit medicines."

Deats went on to reaffirm the MHRA's commitment to patient safety and to bringing those who endanger it to justice, saying "Public health is a matter of public concern and those deliberately putting people's lives in jeopardy should expect to be vigorouslypursued through the criminal courts".

"This is serious criminal activity and puts people's lives at risk. Our primary objective is to protect public health and we will not hesitate to take all appropriate action to eliminate the risks posed by counterfeit medicines and take action against those engaged in their supply".

EAASM highlights the serious risks to patients resulting from misuse of medicines

2011 is set to be the Alliance's most productive year to date. In addition to the conference, we have also just released a major report on the dangers of medicines being used for conditions and in situations where they do not have a proper licence.

"When is a Medicine not a Medicine", has attracted a great deal of press interest. The next stage of the project is to hold a meeting with senior patient advocates, to create a common consensus document. We will then use this to campaign for change by the governmental health authorities.

