A brief review of the 4th International conference on Pharmaceutical Life Cycle: Development, uses and environment, that took place on 1—3 September 2011 at the University of Paris 8 (France) is submitted in the publication.

Key words: drugs, pharmaceutical drugs, medication, natural health products.

The 4th International conference on Pharmaceutical Life Cycle was aimed at the researchers, heads of associations and health agencies, healthcare professionals and students, interested in everything from the development through to the consumption of medical drugs and natural health products.

The term “Pharmaceutical Life Cycle” was introduced as an object of study in 2005 by Catherine Garnier and her team [3]. It is unique in that it brings together a network of researchers from various scientific disciplines and social sciences (law, economy, pharmacology, medicine, chemistry, biology, genomics, biochemistry, history, philosophy, sociology, education science, psychology, communication, computer science etc).

In 2005 and 2007, the pharmaceutical lifecycle conference was held at the University of Quebec in Montreal (Canada), and in 2009, at the University of Milan — Bicocca (Italy). The 4th Pharmaceutical Lifecycle Conference took place in September 2011 at the University of Paris 8. The conference was organized by the Parisian Laboratory of Social Psychology, (LAPPS, EA4386) of the University of Paris 8 Vincennes in St-Denis and University of Paris Ouest-Nanterre-Defense, in partnership with: the International and
Interdisciplinary Association on the Pharmaceutical Life Cycle (IIAPC); the Study Group on Interdisciplinarity and Social Representations (GEIRSO) of the University of Quebec at Montreal (Canada); the Research Institute on the History of Biomedical Thought (CESPEB) of the University of Milan — Bicocca (Italy); the Institute of Social Research (IINSJo) of the National Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon (Mexico).

The Conference Chair and the Organizing Committee included representatives from different countries and universities: Chair — Professor Edith Sales-Wuillemin (University of Paris 8, France); Vice-chairs — Professor Catherine Garnier (University of Quebec at Montreal, Canada), Professor Vittorio Sironi (University of Milan — Bicocca, Italy); and Sabine Gueraud, Corinna Kohler, Laurence Masse (University of Paris 8, France).

Three interrelated themes were discussed at the conference:

— drug development and production: research and development, drug licensing, clinical trials, analytical modeling, drug formulation and industrial manufacturing, new drug delivery systems, as well as economical and cultural issues related to the production of natural health products, etc;

— drug use and representation: analysis of the variables involved in drug prescription, correct uses and misuses, self-medication, impact of new drugs on practices, boundaries between drugs and other health products (natural drugs, psychotropic drug, doping agents, etc), communication through a variety of media, etc;

— impact of drugs on the environment: collection and recycling, eco-design of packaging, impact of industrial production sites, residue disposal in wastewater, hazardous waste, etc.

Guest speakers of the conference were Dr. Sjaak Van Der Geest, Professor of Medical Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam and editor-in-chief of the journal Medische Antropologie (Netherlands); Dr. Pavel Hamet, Professor of Faculty of Medicine at the University of Montreal, Chief of Gene Medicine Services (Canada); Dr. Antonio Guerci, Anthropological Sciences Department; Director of the Ethnomedicine Museum, University of Genoa (Italy); Dr. David Cohen, Professor at the College of Public Health and Social Work, Florida International University, Miami (USA).

The conference was attended by the representatives of the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia (PFUR): Elena Chebotareva and Irina Novikova, Associate Professors of the Department of Social and Differential Psychology; Alexey Novikov, Associate Professor of the Department of General and Russian Linguistics. Elena Chebotareva presented the results of a study on Personal Barriers to regular medicamentous therapy in patients with arterial hypertension [2]. Irina Novikova described the results of the research on Specificity of Aggressiveness of Smoking and Non-Smoking Students [4]. This research was done within the framework of system-functional approach which was developed by the Department of Social and Differential Psychology PFUR under the direction of Professor Alexander Krupnov. The results of this research aroused a great interest among the conference participants, including the members of the Conference Chair and Organizing Committee. The participants of the discussion spoke highly of the importance, novelty and practical value of the research as well as the representative illustration of the material.
Key Materials of the Conference were published in the book of abstracts [1]. The Special Issues of the reviews: “La Revue Internationale sur le Médicament” (la RIM) and “Psychologie Française” are planned to be released in 2012.

REFERENCES


