Title: Formulating better medicines for children – collaborate to innovate

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Editorial

Formulating better medicines for children – collaborate to innovate

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Continuing on its mission and conference series to raise awareness and understand paediatric-specific issues in the development of age appropriate dosage forms, the European Paediatric Formulation Initiative (EuPFI) convoked its 8th annual conference with the International Association of Pharmaceutical Technology (APV) on 21st and 22nd September 2016 at the Hotel Novotel in Lisbon, Portugal. The participation of 158 delegates from Industry, Academia, Regulatory and other organisations from 26 countries with diverse backgrounds and involvement in both formulation development and regulatory submissions provided a productive setting for the exchange of information and views.

The two pre-conference workshops provided much needed focus and interactive session to both the experienced and participants who were new to the area. One on "Benefit risk approach to dosage form design for paediatrics" orchestrated by Dr. Jenny Walsh and team helped participants to identify the key components of the Quality Target Product Profile that influence the selection of a paediatric dosage form. The workshop illustrated how it may be necessary to make compromises to certain elements of the design to ensure a product with acceptable ease of use, safety and patient access can be developed. The participants were asked to utilise information provided on a fictional antibiotic to propose and justify an age appropriate product, taking into account the relative benefits and risks of potential dosage form options. In the second one Dr. Nassir Hussian introduced the regulatory framework/quality section of PIPs and the data package that comes into licensing division when the product has reached the market authorisation submission stage.

The programme included a variety of thought-provoking and discussion-stimulating topics tailored specifically to paediatric product development with the patient's point of view in mind. A shift has oocured in the culture of drug development with industry and regulatory agencies showing more interest in incorporating the perspectives of patients and innovative approaches in paediatric medicine development. In that respect, the conference opened with the plenary session by Simon Stones, the youngest presenter of the conference who gave the view of a young person on effectively engaging young patients people in the prioritisation and early clinical trial design stages to help the delivery of relevant research that addresses the unmet needs of young people and their families.

There is a lot of effort going into developing medicines for children that are acceptable in