

# MCPP activities during the past year

Ruth Theuma BPharm(Hons), Pg Dip Clin Pharm (Aberdeen)

Secretary, Malta College of Pharmacy Practice

Email: secretary@mcppnet.org

**The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year has been a very busy one for the College. A range of activities were organised to enhance professional development and practice.**

**Master Class in Antibiotics and Chemotherapy** was the theme of the Autumn PDP. The sessions, delivered by Dr Paul Cuscheri, who is a senior consultant in bacteriology at SLH and a senior lecturer at the University of Malta, addressed, in depth, various aspects of antibiotic therapy.

The Autumn PDP also included an update on the influenza pandemic, delivered by Dr Tanya Melillo, Chairperson of the National Influenza Pandemic Standing Committee and a session entitled 'A psychodynamic approach to counselling' delivered by Juliet Higdon, a Communications Consultant, Trainer and Life Coach.

**Regulation of Medicines and Pharmaceutical Activities** was the focus of the winter CPD. The Medicines Authority accepted our invitation to provide us with an intensive update in this area. These sessions covered a number of topics including regulations pertaining to pharmacies, pharmaceutical legislation, licensing of medicines, pharmaceutical activities, advertising of human medicinal products as well as adverse drug reactions and pharmacovigilance. These sessions were very well received by participants and were followed by an animated, in depth discussion.

**Clinicopathological correlates in dementia** was the title of a seminar

organized by the Life Science Seminars Organising Committee of Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Malta in collaboration with the Malta College of Pharmacy Practice. The seminar was addressed by Dr John Henry Xuereb, from St Catharine's College Cambridge, UK. This seminar served to stimulate discussion regarding the diagnosis and care of different types of patients suffering from different types of dementias. The associations between specific clinical features and pathophysiological characteristics of these diseases, were described. The discussion was supported with video clips of clinical cases.

**Future perspectives of biopharmaceutical research in the EU** was the title of an evening seminar organised by the Malta College of Pharmacy Practice in collaboration with Malta Enterprise and with the support of the Medicines Authority. The seminar was addressed by Dr Fergal Donnelly from the Biotechnology and Applied Genomics Unit, Directorate General Research and Technology Development of the European Commission. The seminar addressed issues related to clinical trials, SMEs, pharmaceutical industry R&D, educating professionals for future needs, competitiveness and patient safety.

**The Association of Surgeons of Malta** invited the Malta College of Pharmacy Practice to endorse, review and accredit

## With Thanks

The Malta College of Pharmacy Practice would like to thank all those who have offered their support over the years including individual members, institutions and pharmaceutical sponsors. This year we would like to express our gratitude in particular to the following:

- Mr John Martin Borg and Ms Maria Rossella Dalmas, both of whom are pharmacists and well known artists, for having donated paintings to the College.
- An individual member, who has presented us with a cash donation, and who would like to remain anonymous

their eCME programme. Members of the College can now receive credits for completing on line courses on presentation of a certificate.

**Prescription format, content and procedure.** Meetings were held with the Medicines Authority and the Associations of Private Family Doctors related to the format, content and presentation of prescriptions as well as to the prescribing procedure. The need to raise this issue was felt after problems related to this area were highlighted by our members.

We are very pleased to note that the Medicines Authority have taken up the matter and will, after the necessary consultation with all stakeholders concerned, be issuing a legal notice under Article 82 of the Medicines Act to stipulate the requirements for a prescription.

**The Malta College of Pharmacy Practice 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner** was held at the Corinthia Marina Hotel, St Georges Bay, St Julians. It was a delightful evening and a resounding success with the participation of long standing members and friends.

The winner of the painting donated by Mr John Martin Borg was Ms Christine Caruana Montaldo. The painting was drawn during the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner.