22 October 2018, Strasbourg, France

PHARMACOPOEIAL DISCUSSION GROUP ACHIEVEMENTS

The face-to-face meeting of the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG) [European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.), Japanese Pharmacopoeia (JP) and the United States Pharmacopeia (USP)] was hosted by the EDQM in Strasbourg, France, on 2-3 October 2018. WHO participated as Observer.

Sign-offs at this meeting included a new monograph on Copovidone and revisions to monographs on Microcrystalline Cellulose, Wheat starch and Gelatin. Thus 28 of the 31 General Chapters and 46 of the 60 excipient monographs on the current work programme have been harmonised among the PDG Pharmacopoeias.

Following the PDG videoconference on 11 April 2018, technical teleconferences providing a virtual space for experts from the three regions were organised on two items: E-08 Carmellose sodium and G-07 Elemental impurities. During the PDG meeting, the Coordinating Pharmacopoeia reported back on the success of these technical conferences for resolving sticking points and on the subsequent progress made in these areas since the last PDG meeting. In-depth discussions on a number of other items on the current PDG work programme took place with a view to resolving outstanding issues and advancing the items towards sign-off. More detail can be found in the highlights of the meeting.

Excipients Council
A meeting with the International Pharmaceutical Excipients Council (IPEC) Federation was held on 3 October 2018. Topics discussed included monographs on cellulosics, polyethylene glycol, pregelatinised starch and silicon dioxide.

The next face-to-face PDG meeting will be hosted by the Japanese Pharmacopoeia on 1-2 October 2019 in Tokyo, Japan.

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Note for the Editor: Further information is available on the internet site **https://www.edqm.eu/**
The EDQM is a leading organisation that protects public health by enabling development, supporting implementation, and monitoring the application of quality standards for safe medicines and their safe use. Our standards are recognised as a scientific benchmark worldwide. The European Pharmacopoeia is legally binding in member states[1]. Similarly, the EDQM develops guidance and standards in the areas of blood transfusion, organ transplantation and consumer health issues.

[1]There are thirty-nine members of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission: *Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the European Union.*

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