

Post Conference Report

ISPE European Drug Utilization Research Group
(EuroDURG) Conference 2023

Sustainability of drug use: equity and innovation



June 27th – 30th 2023

Complesso Belmeloro, University of Bologna, Italy



Björn Wettermark
Chair, Scientific Organising Committee

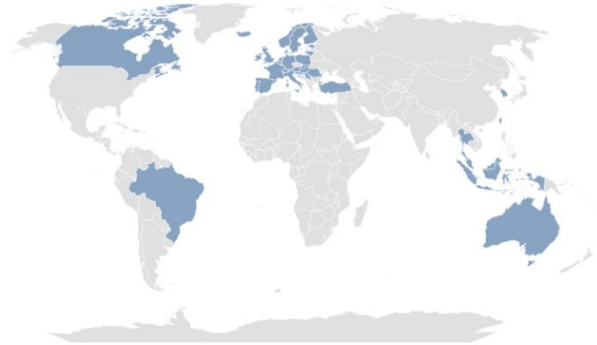


Elisabetta Poluzzi
Chair, Local Organising Committee



Executive summary

At the end of June 2023, EuroDURG, the European chapter of ISPE special interest group for Drug Utilization Research, welcomed 243 delegates, from 34 countries to our 4-days meeting entitled *Sustainability of drug use: equity and innovation*, held in Bologna, Italy at the University of Bologna.



Our ambition was to challenge ourselves to consider the sustainability of the use of medicines from a global perspective and the unmet needs in drug utilization.

The conference speakers (16 invited speakers and 22 invited chairs) rose to the challenge. The conference was centered around three key plenary sessions: “Sustainability of drug utilization”, “Globalization of the medicines use” and “Unmet needs in drug utilization” from a clinical, patient and drug policy perspective. Celebration of the 50 years of drug utilization research closed the conference.

Plenary sessions were complimented by an extensive program of introductory and advanced education sessions, and a mix of plenary and parallel sessions and workshop. Before the main program, the second edition of the ENABLE Training School was hosted.

A total of 50 oral abstract presentations and 181 posters contributed to stimulate scientific discussion.

The scientific program was accompanied by a EuroDURG social program to promote networking across the 3 days. We started with a Welcome Reception, hosted by Palazzo De’ Toschi, in the city centre, introduced by local authorities and enriched by an historical lecture. On Thursday night, delegates were invited to a gala dinner in Palazzo Isolani, another precious historical building in the city centre. They had also the opportunity to visit the main University museum either in the early morning or the late afternoon of the conference days.

Section 1 - CONFERENCE PREPARATION AND PARTICIPANT STATISTICS

Organising Committees

The Scientific Committee comprised of individuals from the EuroDURG Executive Board and key recognised leaders in drug utilisation research and drug policy in Europe. An Advisory Board was convened to support development of the scientific program and promote the conference internationally.

The Local Organising Committee comprised individuals from the Scientific Committee, the host (the University of Bologna), the conference organiser *Fondazione Alma Mater (FAM)* and the ENABLE COST Action representatives. Due to the global make-up of the committee, the core team met both in person and via videoconferences over the 12 months prior to the conference. A face to face planning meetings took place, in Bologna where the team selected the venue of the conference and social event spaces.

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Elisabetta Poluzzi (chair)
Emanuel Raschi
Carlotta Lunghi
Michele Fusaroli
Valentina Giunchi
Marco Contavalli
Elisa Giannuzzi
Alexandra Lelia Dima
Urska Nabegoi-Makovec

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Bjorn Wettermark (chair)
Marion Bennie
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Ria Benkő
Irina Cazacu
Monique Elseviers
Katarina Gvodanovic
Sean MacBride-Stewart
Tanja Mueller
Elisabetta Poluzzi
Hege Salvorsen-Blix
Gabriel Sanfélix-Gimeno
Gisbert W. Selke
Katja Taxis
Ana Tomas Petrovic
Indre Trečiokienė
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Mina Tadrous
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Gillian Caughey
Jason Hsu
Luciane Cruz Lopes
Frank May
Claudia Garcia Serpa Osorio de Castro
Ingrid Sketris
Ilse Truter

Social events

Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception took place in the Palazzo De' Toschi, in the city centre, on Tuesday, 27th June at 7:00 pm. All conference delegates were invited to join for welcome drinks & finger food. The Rector of the University of Bologna, the Head of the Medical and Surgical Sciences, the Head of the Sant'Orsola research and clinical institute, the Head of Local Health Authority of Bologna, the Head of the Medicine Area of the Emilia Romagna Region gave a welcoming speech. It was followed by a Historic Review of the Medical Science in the City and the University of Bologna, by Paolo Savoia from the Department of Philosophy and Communication Studies and a party dinner.



EuroDURG Party

On Thursday night, delegates were invited to a gala dinner in Palazzo Isolani, another precious historical building in the city centre. After a welcome drink and the dinner, participants enjoyed with a disco party with a local DJ set and an open bar with typical Italian liqueurs.



Museum of Palazzo Poggi visit

In the early morning of both Wednesday and Thursday, a visit to the Specola tower of the University (a historic astronomical observatory from which a panoramic view of the city can be enjoyed) and a breakfast amidst the most ancient collections of the University was offered to delegates and their families. On Thursday late afternoon, a visit of Museum of Palazzo Poggi (hosting the famous collections dedicated to geography and nautical science, military architecture, physics, natural history, chemistry, human anatomy and obstetrics) was also organised.



Delegate Badge and Bag

A cotton bag containing a copy of the conference program, a pen and a block note were handed out to all delegates at registration. Delegates also had badges to wear throughout the duration of the conference.



Exhibition/Sponsorship

There were exhibitors from: the WHO Collaboration Centres and NuPhaC (Nurse and Pharmaceutical Care network). The exhibition consisted of a table top and chairs in the foyer area where posters were hanged.

Abstracts

A total of 231 abstracts originating from 34 countries were received via the conference website managed by FAM. A full review process was undertaken by the EuroDURG Scientific Committee, supported by an extended cohort of reviewers. Overall, 181 posters were accepted and poster sessions took place in the afternoons of Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th June. A further 50 abstracts were accepted as oral presentations.

Speakers

There were 38 invited speakers. The budget allowed for up to 3 nights' accommodation and travel costs for up to €300 in total per invited speakers/chairs and committees' members. Some speakers, chairs and members were funded by their own organisation.

Section 2 - CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The conference was centred around three key plenary sessions. To start off the conference, **first plenary session**, titled Sustainability of drug utilization- economic, social and environmental aspects with lectures given by Giampiero Mazzaglia from the University of Milano-Bicocca, Aukje Mantel-Teeuwisse from the Utrecht University, and Marmar Nekoro from the Uppsala University. They presented current challenges on sustainability of drug utilization, setting the scene for the whole conference.

The **second plenary session** was dedicated to globalization of medicines use: advances in DUR across the globe. Lisa Pont from the University of Technology Sydney opened the session with lecture on the extent and scope of DUR across the globe, informed and drawn from the globalization section in the second edition of our DUR Methods and Applications book. This followed by lectures by Claudia Osorio from the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz focusing on Region South-Central America, and Amanj Kurdi from the University of Strathclyde focusing on Region Africa, both presenting summary for regions, highlights, challenges and opportunities for cross national studies.

The **third plenary session** focused on unmet needs in drug utilization - clinical, patient and drug policy perspective, and provided an overview of the drug development during the last 50 years and key challenges remaining in terms of unmet needs and areas where future DUR studies may help in meeting this need. Björn Wettermark, from the Uppsala University, gave an overview on the drug development during the last 50 years and changes the drug utilization encountered. This was followed by a lecture by Aukje Mantel-Teeuwisse with the update on the WHO priority medicine report, describing the situation today, the key unmet need or gaps with large disease burden in terms of DALY and no/poor treatment alternatives.

The last plenary was followed by a **celebration of the 50 years of drug utilization research** in which pioneers in the field together with new researchers discussed about the history and the future perspective on drug utilization research. The invited pioneers were Ulf Bergman (Karolinska Institutet), Monique Elseviers (University of Antwerp), Frank May (University of Queensland), Nicola Montanaro (University of Bologna), Gyöngyver Soos (University of Szeged), and Robert Vander Stichele (University of Gent). Following the pioneers' contribution, representatives of young DURgers discussed their view on the future Drug Utilisation Research challenges: Isabella Ekheden (Karolinska Institutet), Tanja Mueller (University of Strathclyde), Andrea Spini (University of Verona), Indre Trečiokienė (University of Vilnius).

Our plenary sessions were complimented by an **extensive program of introductory and advanced education sessions**, led by international experts, including the educational session held together with the ENABLE cost action focusing on adherence, to kick off the conference on Tuesday afternoon. Before the main program, the second edition of the **ENABLE Training School** was hosted.

This was followed by a mix of interspersed **parallel sessions and workshops and mini symposia** focused on adherence, cross national comparisons, methodological challenges in DUR, AI/Machine learning and big data, DUR in specific therapeutic areas, health policy, safety, drugs and environment, polypharmacy, deprescribing, patient perspectives, impact of COVID-19 on DU, sustainable DU and challenges with new medications. Our delegates were active throughout, with 50 oral abstract presentations across the sessions.

We had a further of 181 **posters**, all of whom were part of a themed poster walk (DUR and safety, quality of medicine use, specific populations and therapeutic areas, health policy, polypharmacy and deprescribing, methodological advances in DU, cross-national comparison, DUR and pandemics, interventions and implementation, patient perspectives, medication adherence) over 2 days to stimulate discussion on the wealth of research ongoing within the community. Each poster presentation comprised of 3 minutes followed by 2 minutes of discussion. The chair and co-chair for each poster walk

rated the posters based on scientific content, the quality of the poster and the way the results were presented and defended. The three best posters were chosen separately for both the Thursday and Friday poster sessions based on these rankings.

The **full conference program book and abstract book** are available through the EuroDURG conference website (<https://eventi.unibo.it/eurodurg2023>).

EuroDURG Best Poster Awards 2023

Wednesday POSTER WALK

A07W Fatema Alshaikhmubarak, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

BQ04W Carlotta Lunghi, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

A22W Maarten Lambert University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands

Thursday POSTER WALK

BP11T Peter Doro, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary

BQ24T Michele Fusaroli, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

BP17T Aimee Ferguson, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Program Overview

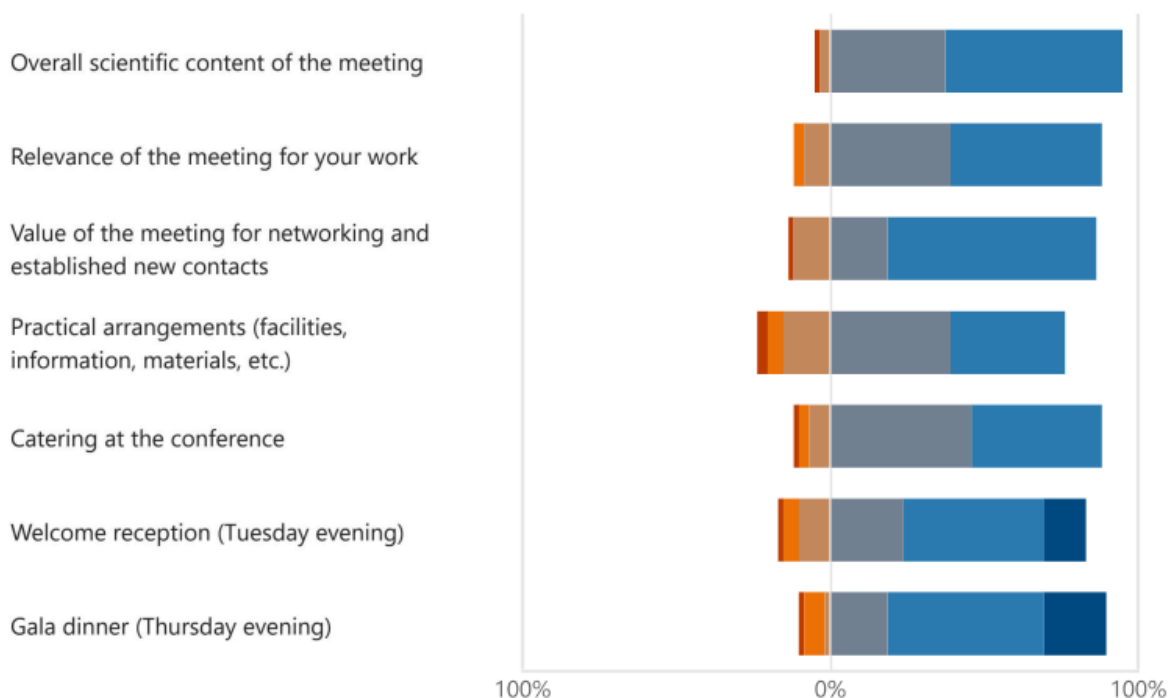
	TUESDAY 27 JUNE			WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE		THURSDAY 29 JUNE			FRIDAY 30 JUNE		
				SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM PART I		SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM PART III			SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM PART V		
9.00 am				WELCOME PLENARY 1: Sustainability of drug utilisations – economic, social and environmental aspects Room A Bldg. A		T-KL5/OC3 Cross-national comparisons Room B Bldg. A	T-KL6/OC4 Drugs & Environment Room C Bldg. A	T-KL7/OC5 Methodological challenges in DUR Room A Bldg. A	F-OC8 DUR in specific therapeutic areas Room A Bldg. A	F-OC9 Different roles of DUR in health policy Room B Bldg. A	F-OC10 DUR and safety Room C Bldg. A
10.30 am				Coffee break		Coffee break			Coffee break		
11.00 am				W-KL1/OC1 Medication adherence Room A Bldg. A	W-KL2/OC2 Impact of COVID-19 on DU Room B Bldg. A	T-KL8/OC6 Polypharmacy and Deprescribing Room A Bldg. A		T-KL9/OC7 AI/Machine Learning and Big Data Room B Bldg. A	PLENARY 3: Unmet needs in drug utilisations – clinical, patient and drug policy perspective Room A Bldg. A		
12.30 pm	Registration in the hallway of Building A			Lunch		Lunch			Closing session Celebrating 50 years of DUR		
	EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS			SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM PART II		SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM PART IV					
1.30 pm	Welcome to the educational sessions (2.00 pm) Room A Bldg. A			W-KL3 The value of the patient perspective in DUR Room A Bldg. A	W-KL4 eHealth, digitalization and DUR Room B Bldg. A	PLENARY 2: Globalization of medicines use - Advances in DUR across the globe Room A Bldg. A			Legend <i>ES</i> educational session <i>KL</i> key lecture <i>OC</i> oral communication <i>WS</i> workshop		
2.15 pm	T-ES1 Introduction to DUR Room A Bldg. A	T-ES2 Qualitative/quantitative mixed methods Room C Bldg. A	T-ES3 Adherence I (in collaboration with ENABLE) Room B Bldg. A	Poster Session I Hallway Ground Floor Bldg. A Hallway Ground Floor Bldg. B Room P Bldg. B Room Q Bldg. B		Poster Session II Hallway Ground Floor Bldg. A Hallway Ground Floor Bldg. B Room P Bldg. B Room Q Bldg. B			<i>DU(R)</i> drug utilisations (research) <i>QIs</i> quality indicators <i>AI</i> artificial intelligence <i>PROM</i> patient reported outcome measure		
3.45 pm	Coffee break			Coffee break		Coffee break					
4.15-5.45 pm	T-ES4 Critical appraisal of statistics in DUR Room A Bldg. A	T-ES5 Longitudinal DU studies Room C Bldg. A	T-ES6 Adherence II (in collaboration with ENABLE) Room B Bldg. A	W-WS1 QIs and sustainable DU Room A Bldg. A	W-WS2 Outcome measures in studies on the quality of (de) prescribing in older people Room B Bldg. A	T-WS3 Challenges with new medications Room A Bldg. A	T-WS4 PROMs: added value for DU Room B Bldg. A				
	Welcome Ceremony			EuroDURG general assembly		EuroDURG Gala Dinner					

Section 3 - CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

The conference evaluation questionnaire was completed by 59 of the participants. Respondents were very positive about the conference. Using a scale from 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent), the overall scientific content was rated as 4.5, networking opportunities 4.5, practical arrangements 4, social program 4.3, and relevance of the meeting 4.3. Finally, 84.4% of respondents wrote they would attend another EuroDURG meeting.

1. How do you rate the following from 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent)?

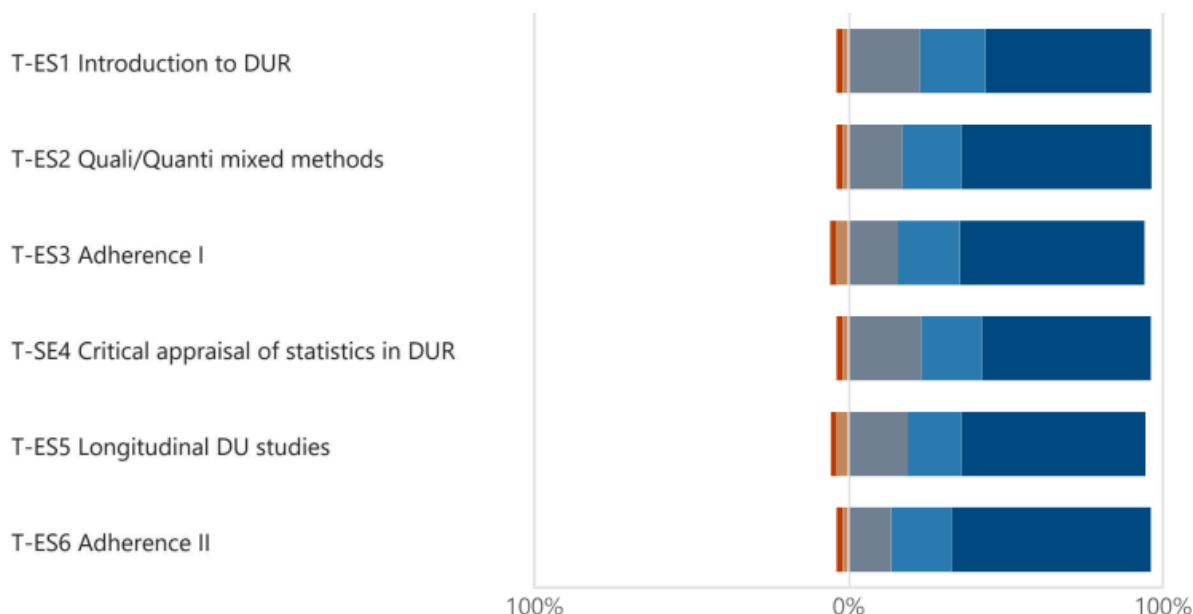
1 2 3 4 5 can't rate



All educational sessions were really appreciated (4.2-4.3) as well as the scientific program, with particular high rate for “Medication adherence”, “Globalisation of medicine use”, “Unmet needs in drug utilisation”, DUR and environment” and “Polypharmacy and deprescribing”.

2. How do you rate educational sessions from 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent)?

1 2 3 4 5 Can't rate



Additional comments given were generally positive. Some recommendations were provided around allowing for delegates to have a contact list of participants, to have rooms for networking, and to put more focus on specific topics.

I would like to hear more about CNS drugs in future conferences.

Health literacy and the role of the pharmacist

More physical room for meeting and networking

to provide after the meeting a list with the affiliations and emails of all participants to be able to follow up the conversations started during the conference

Lovely to spend time outside at lunch etc., enjoyed that very much! Great conference

General comments on the conference

The main overall strengths of the conference were: the topics covered, the organization of the sessions, the expertise of the speakers, the welcoming and friendly atmosphere, and the poster printing service.

The breadth and depth of the topics

I liked about everything, and the friendly climate among the participants.

The mixture between plenary sessions, educational sessions and workshops

Very warm welcome, open mind and nice colleague/new friends. Good vibes community and I'm so proud to be here and nice to see everyone.

I liked the different expertise from the presenters

The fact that the posters were printed directly at the conference (and even more, put on the board!)

It was nice to deal with multidisciplinary issues (e.g., environment and drugs)

The main challenges or areas to improve on focused around: including topics out of the classical DUR, rethinking the plenary session, reformatting the poster walks to be more informal and less structured, and technical issues of the conference structure with air conditioning.

The focus was a lot on "classical" DUR and I would like it to be broader to include more areas including health/pharmaceutical policy and access to medicines

The poster walk; I'd propose not to have a sessions with chairs, but rather have 2 windows during which people can walk by themselves.

Air conditioning issues

Sometimes the plenary would be very general and not focussed on drug utilisation.

Conference in Action

