



**Co-ordinators:**           **Keith Thompson**  
                                  **Nicola Shaw**

### **Mission Statement**

The European Cystic Fibrosis Pharmacy Group is committed to promoting good practice in the supply of, and equitable access to, medicines and information about medicines to patients; setting high standards of pharmacy practice; supporting patients to achieve greatest benefit from their medicines; promoting the role of pharmacists and affiliated professions in the pharmaceutical care of patients with CF; delivering continuing professional education and development, and pharmacy practice research.

### **Introduction**

On 30 October 2015, the European CF Pharmacy Group was approved by the ECFS Board, following application to form a special interest group. This was invited by the ECFS President, recognising the role that pharmacists have to play in the modern management of cystic fibrosis, and the notable absence of a pharmacist group within ECFS.

### **Launch of the Group**

The ECFPG 'soft-launch' commenced throughout January to March 2016. Announcement of the new Special Interest Group was made in the February 2016 issue of the ECFS newsletter, and was followed by the launch of the ECFPG web-page section within the ECFS website.

The web-page development corresponded with publication of an article in Hospital Pharmacy Europe entitled 'Role of the clinical pharmacist in the management of CF.' The manuscript was co-authored by the ECFPG co-ordinators, and highlighted the essential and varied role of clinical pharmacists as part of the CF multidisciplinary team. A sidebar to the article described the ECFPG and how to join. The article can be found at:

<http://www.hospitalpharmacyeurope.com/featured-articles/role-clinical-pharmacist-management-cf>

### **Membership**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, the European CF Pharmacy Group had 25 members (Appendix 1). Whilst members are encouraged to join the ECFS, only 7 members included their ECFS membership number on registration forms. The remainder of applicants were emailed on receipt of their membership application form to recommend registration with ECFS, but were permitted to join the mailing list for the group.

Geographical origin of the group membership is shown in Table 1.

Country	Number of members
United Kingdom	15
Ireland	3
Belgium	2
Cyprus	1
France	1
Germany	1
Switzerland	1
The Netherlands	1

### Group activities

The ECFPG application outlined a detailed plan for the first year of operation. An update is provided in this section against each of the objectives.

1. Identify pharmacists and affiliated professionals working within CF centres that might benefit from membership of this group through direct email to Centre Directors and call to membership in ECFS and CTN newsletters

The fledgling group has attracted members from a range of countries described above. There has been a slow but steady growth in numbers, following the announcement of the group in the ECFS newsletter, publication of an article highlighting the group in a respected European pharmacy journal, and through engagement with the UK CF Pharmacy Group which 'hosts' the ECFPG in the UK. We have not yet engaged Centre Directors across a wider geography, and this should be a priority for 2017-18.

2. Develop constitution with stakeholders

The mission statement and aims of the group has now been agreed and published on the ECFS website.

3. Develop ECFPG web-page and establish a discussion forum to provide network and support

The web-page has been published. At present, a separate discussion forum has not been adopted – communication with group members is via email using a dedicated email address: [ecfpg@outlook.com](mailto:ecfpg@outlook.com)

4. Hold the inaugural ECFPG Annual Meeting (to replace the Pharmacists Meeting at ECFS conference), with development of the committee.

The inaugural ECFPG Annual Meeting occurred within the European CF Conference in Basel, Switzerland, in June 2016 and was well attended. The agenda and feedback from the meeting can be found in the next section.

- Contribute to the programme of the ECFS Conference 2016, particularly the Tomorrow Lounge Programme to share knowledge, promote the role of the CF clinical pharmacist, and connect with the wider CF community.

In collaboration with the CF Nursing Group, the ECFPG held a workshop within the Tomorrow Lounge at ECFC 2016 entitled 'Drug handling in Cystic Fibrosis - pharmacokinetic & pharmacodynamic issues in people with CF.'

A number of eminent speakers discussed a series of vignettes highlighting issues such as managing food and drug interactions, therapeutic drug monitoring of aminoglycosides and antifungals, and pharmacokinetics in children.

### ECFPG Meeting 2016

The 2016 Annual European CF Pharmacy Group meeting was held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June in Basel, Switzerland, prior to the 39<sup>th</sup> European Cystic Fibrosis Conference. The meeting was attended by 15 pharmacists, representing 5 countries – table 2.

Country	Number of delegates
United Kingdom	9
The Netherlands	2
Canada	2
France	1
Switzerland	1

The meeting commenced with an introduction to the ECFPG, led by the co-ordinators Nicola Shaw (Advanced Clinical Pharmacist, Adult Cystic Fibrosis, Leeds, UK) and Keith Thompson (Clinical Commissioning Pharmacist, London, UK). This section provided the group with an update on membership, group constitution, opportunities and challenges.

This introduction was followed by presentations from a number of guest speakers (Table 3).

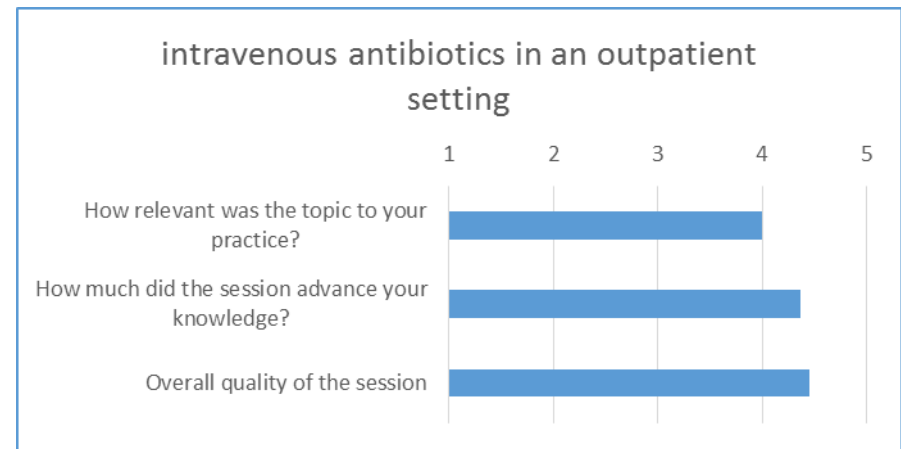
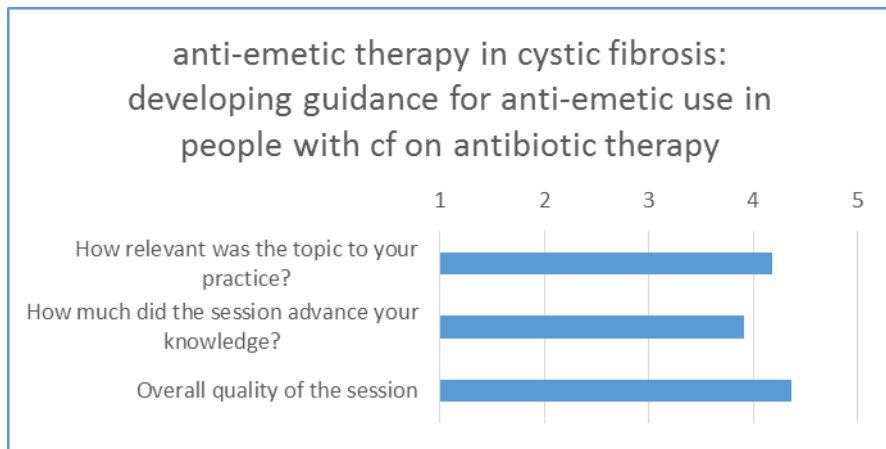
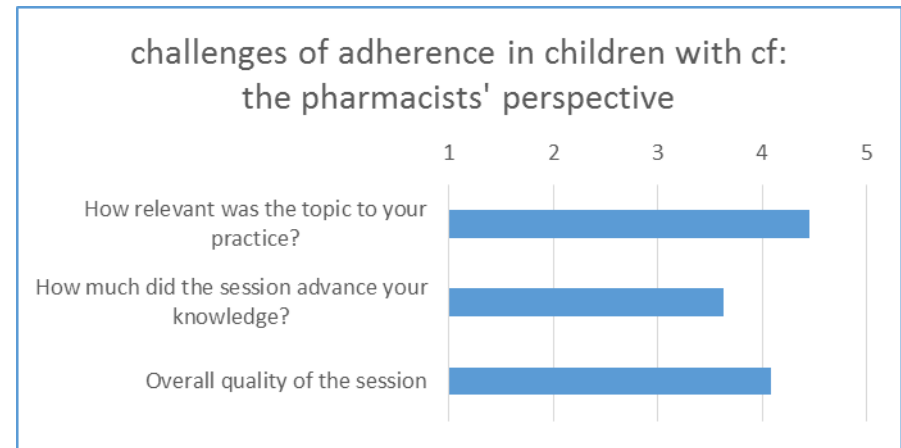
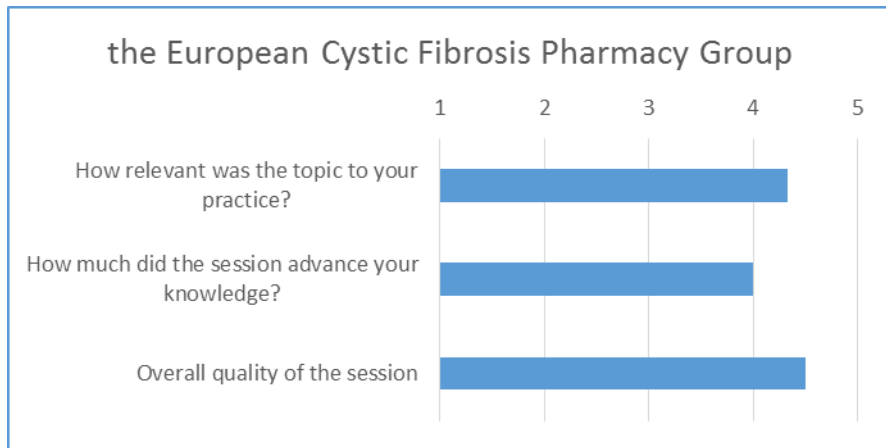
Title	Presenter	Representing
international cf pharmacy practice perspectives	Lori Chen, Clinical Pharmacist, Cystic Fibrosis	The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada
anti-emetic therapy in cystic fibrosis: developing guidance for anti-emetic use in people with cf on antibiotic therapy	Avril Cherry, Respiratory and Cystic Fibrosis Pharmacist	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Sheffield, UK
challenges of adherence in children with cf: the pharmacists' perspective	Sukeshi Makhecha, Specialist Pharmacist, Paediatrics	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK

intravenous antibiotics in an outpatient setting	Edwin Brokaar, Pharmacist	HagaZiekenhuis, The Hague, The Netherlands
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Feedback from the meeting was very positive. Overall, delegates rated the meeting as 'extremely useful.' Feedback was provided on individual presentations (Figures 1-5).

### **Conclusion**

The ECFPG has met its first year aims. Although membership is small, the group has had a presence within the European CF Conference, and has an even more ambitious programme for the 2017 Conference. In the coming months, there should be a focus on increasing membership and identifying collaborative projects, including input to guidelines, development of CF medicines formularies and patient and professional information resources on the use of medicines in CF. ECFPG members will be reminded that they need to retain membership of ECFS.



Figures 1-5: Feedback from presentations at ECFPG Annual Meeting 2016