

# 56th Annual General Meeting of the P-D-R 2014

The Pharma Documentation Ring (P-D-R) held its 56th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Windsor, England, from 23rd – 26th September 2014. The P-D-R is an association whose members represent the scientific information departments of the leading international R&D-based pharmaceutical corporations. The 23 member companies continue to account for 60% of the total global turnover of ethical drugs (approximately \$500 billion); by far the majority of the top 20 global pharmaceutical companies are P-D-R members. Thirty-three delegates attended this year's meeting, which was hosted by UCB.

This was Andrew Clark's (UCB) 1st meeting as President of P-D-R. Andrew's opening remarks, reflected on recent trends in the information industry, with a focus on the past, the current and a look into the future transitioning from a current 'enabling' role to one that 'empowers' and builds strategic partnerships in the enterprise. Embedded user friendly analytic tools will become an integral part of the workflow, to further enable user-led analysis and other value adds. We would also be a provider of point of need training as experts in big data analytics.

A strategic session focused on new technologies to manage access to eResources. John Paschoud (Local Knowledge Ltd) gave an introductory speech for the topic, and Darryl Spencer (Elsevier) presented a publisher's view of the post-IP-authentication technology. Case studies shared insight on how member companies employed tools such as OpenAthens or EZProxy to solve specific problems.

There were also case studies on the opportunities and challenges in delivering a global information management Service. The regular 'Hot Topics' session gave the group opportunities to answer these questions: What will our Information Groups look like in 2020; How should our people roles be resourced in our Information Groups?; How can we define and measure the value of our Information Groups?; and How can our Information Groups build strategic relationships with other internal functions?

- Other external speakers who joined the meeting were John Edeson (Dow Jones) who presented the 'Factiva Roadmap' and Stephen Garfield and Miles McNamee (Copyright Clearance Center) who spoke on the value of an enterprise-wide international CCC licence.

#### P-D-R members' presentations included:

- Claudia Körner (Bayer) on Making Global Services Visible
- Mary Laskow (BristolMyersSquibb) BMS' handling of Real World Research
- Mairi McCloskey (AstraZeneca) Null hypothesis project for Clinical trial and Competitor intelligence database

Within the reviews of information developments in each of the member companies, the recurring themes were continued company reorganizations, collaborations and divestitures, and as a result, the need to improve flexibility around access control, managing portfolios including business governance, and an increase in the use of and skills in tools for big data.

During the gala dinner, Helen Malone, GSK was awarded the Jane Whittall Award for her outstanding contribution towards P-D-R activities during the previous 12 months recognising her active involvement in P-D-R working groups and living the P-D-R values.

This award is a lasting tribute to Jane Whittall of GlaxoSmithKline who was a P-D-R member since 1992 and died in June 2003. Jane Whittall was very active on behalf of the P-D-R until her untimely death.

The meeting closed with Andrew Clark (UCB), President and Host, thanking the members and the board for their active involvement during the year, The 57th P-D-R meeting will be held in Zurich, Switzerland from September 22nd to 25th, 2015 hosted by Takeda

#### **P-D-R Board Members 2014/2015**

Andrew Clark, UCB, President

Nola Heyns, Eli Lilly, Secretary

Claudia Körner, Bayer, Vice President

Matthias Staab, Sanofi, Vice President

Anni-Barbara Endler-Jobst, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Vice President