



## **Ascertaining Barriers for Compliance: policies for safe, effective and cost-effective use of medicines in Europe**



**HEALTH-F2-2008-223477**

**ABC Project** is the EU-funded research initiative to improve patient compliance with medication in Europe involving 6 research centres: Medical University of Lodz (Poland), University of Aberdeen (UK), Bangor University (UK), Pharmionic Systems Ltd. (Switzerland), Keele University - NCP Plus (UK), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). The strategic goal of the project is to produce evidence-based policy recommendations for improving patient adherence and persistence, and thus raising the effectiveness of medications use by Europeans. The ABC was launched on January 1, 2009 and will run until December 31, 2011. [www.ABCproject.eu](http://www.ABCproject.eu)



- European consensus on terminology used in the field of deviations from assigned treatment and relevant taxonomy (ONGOING)

### **Overview of work progress and achievements**

*Jenny Demonceau and Bernard Vrijens from Pharmionic Systems, WP1 leader*

The objective of WP1 is to identify the terminology that has been used in the literature to describe deviations from assigned treatment. As a leader of WP, in January 2009, partner 4 had the pleasure to start the ABC project with a systematic literature review. Although, this work package was added lately in the project proposal, we realized quickly that it will turn out not to have been the easiest one. Indeed, 3121 papers of some degree of pertinence to the topic have been identified through 5 different electronic databases. Several partners were involved for the papers' retrieval and to identify the selection criteria.

Finally, 141 papers have been included in the review for their direct relevance to the taxonomy.

From these 141 papers, the different partners extracted the relevant information used to build the taxonomy for deviations from assigned treatment in ambulatory patients. Their comments on taxonomy were almost invariably incidental to their main focus of reporting research findings. Only a few of these papers had, as their primary focus, the taxonomic aspects of the field. During the month of August, the different partners will work together on a draft consensus that will be presented and further discussed during the European Consensus Meeting on taxonomy and terminology of patient adherence which will be held in Bangor, UK on September 10-11<sup>th</sup> 2009.

There is a real necessity to forge a consensus for a rigorous and robust taxonomy that will support and inform the remaining tasks of the ABC project. Currently, many terms are used more or less interchangeably, without a uniform definition. Yet one thing is very clear: there is uniformity of agreement across health disciplines regarding the practical and scientific importance of the phenomenon of adherence. Yet another thing is very clear: many of the definitions of the concept are vague or ambiguous, with little agreement either within or between disciplines. Some of widely-used terms have quite different meanings within different scientific and medical fields.

A certain analogy exists between the defining of an effective taxonomy for a field of both research and practice, and the process of classifying and defining diseases. In both cases, the result creates a set of rules, agreed-upon at a particular moment in time, within which future activities should fit, if all are committed to fulfillment of the need for clear, concise, and adequate definitions and associated conceptual framework within which ongoing work can continue. New methods and new research findings may later force a fine-tuning or even a reshaping of the field's taxonomy. Careful attention to the metrics for, and physical dimensions of, proposed terms or parameters is one of the pillars upon which a sound taxonomy should rest.

## ABC at Research Connection 2009

The ABC project was presented at the conference and exhibition **Research Connection 2009** in Prague, 7-8 May, a major event on EU research

programmes. The ABC project was among the 47 EU-funded projects exhibited. The ABC audio-visual stand was composed of posters, booklets and a short film about the ABC project produced by the local Polish TV. The project was presented at a forum session as an example of good practice in the field of applying for EU funding.  
[www.ec.europa.eu/research/rtd-2009](http://www.ec.europa.eu/research/rtd-2009)

## ABC consortium meeting in Aberdeen



The ABC Project 1st Periodic Meeting was hosted by the University of Aberdeen on 25th-26th of June 2009. WP1 leader (Pharmionic Systems Ltd.) summarised M1.1 Systematic review of the literature on taxonomy and terminology of patient compliance and current European practices in the field of compliance taxonomy. This presentation was followed by a long and intense discussion on methodological issues of the systematic review of the literature on the taxonomy and terminology search. [www.abcproject.eu](http://www.abcproject.eu)

## ESPACOMP symposium programme - September 10-11, 2009, Bangor

The final program for ESPACOMP 2009 has been announced. It can be found at <http://www.espacomp.eu/meetings>. On September 11th the **European consensus meeting on taxonomy and terminology of patient compliance** will be held during which a draft ABC proposal on taxonomy and terminology of patient compliance will be presented by Bernard Vrijens. We as the ABC consortium look forward to ensuing discussion and feedback from the participants of the consensus meeting.

[www.espacomp.eu](http://www.espacomp.eu)



## Eyeforpharma 6th conference

Przemyslaw Kardas, scientific coordinator of the ABC Project presented the aims and results of the project during the *Eyeforpharma 6th Patient Relationship Management Conference*, London 9-10 June 2009. The meeting was an opportunity for both academia and industry to meet and to present their points of view and exchange their experience in the field of patient compliance [www.eyeforpharma.com](http://www.eyeforpharma.com)

## 15<sup>th</sup> Wonca Europe Conference

During this year's **Wonca** (World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians) **Europe Conference in Basel 16-19.09.2009** entitled *The Fascination of Complexity – Dealing with Individuals in a Field of Uncertainty* the ABC scientists from the Medical University of Lodz will deliver a workshop on: **How can a busy physician help patients take prescribed medicines correctly?** - Thursday, 17 September 2009; 15:30 - 16:30. The ABC will also contribute a poster entitled *European initiative to improve patient compliance with medication* <http://www.woncaeurope.org/>

**Wonca  
EUROPE  
2009  
conference**

**15<sup>th</sup> Wonca Europe Conference**  
**32<sup>nd</sup> SSMG/SGAM Congress**  
(doctors working/studying in Switzerland – please [register here](#))

**16–19 September 2009**  
**Basel, Switzerland**

*The Fascination of Complexity  
Dealing with Individuals in a Field of Uncertainty*

Wonca Europe Conference  
 Wonca Europe

SSMG/SGAM Congress  
 SSMG SGAM

Swiss Society of General Medicine (doctors working/studying)