

Implementation of Clinical Pharmacy services in a teaching hospital: opportunities and difficulties

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Clinical Pharmacy :
from foreign experiences to realizations in Belgium



Starting point ...

- Would implementation be easier in a university or a non-university hospital ?
 - the next speaker will deal with non-university hospitals
 - I will, therefore, restrict my-self to the University hospital and will insist on the opportunities.

- University environment offers two main opportunities
 - the mission of the University
 - a flow of students, which in this case, means young pharmacists in training ...



The missions of the University ...

- Universities have three basic missions

- teaching
- research
- service to the Society



➔ You only teach well what you actually practice and on which you perform research ...

- University Hospital Pharmacies must (and actually do) demonstrate evidence of qualitative and quantitative activities (in the three basic missions), which justifies their specific funding

➔ This is a major opportunity (and is shared with the medical staff...)



The missions of the University: how to put them in practice ...

- The obligations existed since 1991, but were not used early on to develop Clinical Pharmacy...
 - lack of a strong drug delivery system within the hospital
 - lack of specific funding
- Did we loose time ? ... Perhaps, but not in the long term ...
- The first goal, indeed, was to guarantee the correctness of the drug delivery process from the pharmacy down to the patient
- Opportunity for a University hospital:
 - ➔ implementation of a high quality delivery approach through a hierarchical structure

The presence of pharmacists in training ...

- the main goal of the training in Hospital Pharmacy has always been to allow students to catch both a theoretical and a practical experience in contact with colleagues who develop new approaches and skills

→ those who teach are those who do ...

- typical examples since 1976 ...:

- preparation of cytostatic agents
- parenteral nutrition
- running the pharmaceutical parts of FDA- and EMEA-approved clinical trials
- on-line electronic prescription (allowing a true individualized drug delivery)



- the presence of students allows to develop new approaches, and Clinical Pharmacy has been the one selected since 2002 once the process of prescription – drug delivery had been optimized and fully implemented ...



PHARMACIE

La Pharmacie clinique ...

Un nouveau programme de formation continue à l'UCL

Local opportunities for launching Clinical Pharmacy

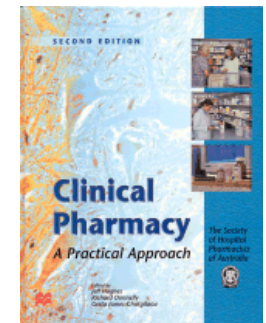
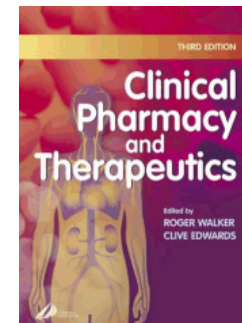
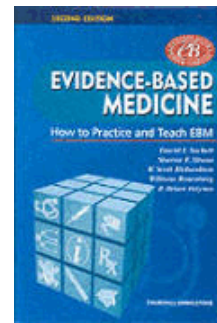
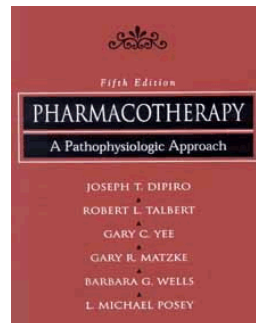
- existence of an active and effective Medico-Pharmaceutical Committee
- excellent cooperation between the Pharmacy and several Medical Departments
- contacts with foreign colleagues (in Canada) with experience in similar approaches
- opening of local funding opportunities to pharmacists in training
- launching of a Doctoral Thesis in Clinical Pharmacy at the School of Pharmacy

An active Medico-pharmaceutical committee...

- Structure and functions
 - comprises 8 MD's, 2 pharmacists, and one nurse
 - holds regularly scheduled meetings (every 2 weeks)
 - supervises the whole drug policy in the hospital
- Large experience of medico-pharmaceutical cooperation
 - Drug use evaluation programs ...
- Budget allowing to finance research projects for 1 to 2 years ...
- Hiring of a pharmacist for 2 years

Cooperation between the Pharmacy and the Medical Departments

- presence (and supervision) of students in Pharmacy (5th year), young pharmacists in training, and pharmacists hired by the Medico-pharmaceutical committee in several clinical wards ...
- help for the teaching of Pharmacotherapy and of Evidence-based Medicine to the pharmacists in training (17 medical collaborators !!)

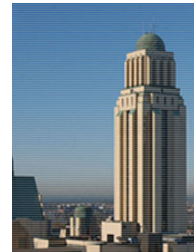


Contacts with foreign colleagues (Montréal, Qué.)

- visits for "*de visu*" study of a successful experience...
- help for defining what training in Clinical Pharmacy should be...
- help and active participation in our teaching of Clinical Pharmacy in Belgium
 - presence of Prof. L. Mallet each year since the launching of the training in Clinical Pharmacy
 - more than 60 young pharmacists trained so far ...

FARM3591 Introduction à la pharmacie clinique [30h] (3 crédits) [Louise Mallet](#), [Pierre Wallemacq](#), [Léon Wilmotte](#) (coord.)

- welcoming (and supervision) of young pharmacists in training in Montréal ...



Opening of local funding sources for pharmacists ...

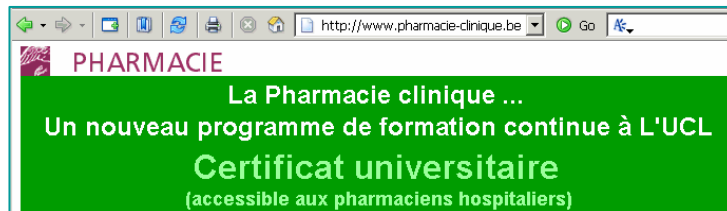
- The "*Fondation Saint-Luc*", which aims at improving the quality of patient's care, has accepted applications from pharmacists
- 3-months fellowships to study abroad have been awarded.





Doctoral Theses in Clinical Pharmacy ...

- Any project must be based on strong scientific grounds
- Doctoral Theses are part of this construction and give the opportunity to improve the quality of the training of Clinical Pharmacists
 - through weekly seminars and discussion meetings between the PhD students and the pharmacists in training
 - by fostering the quality of our project and linking it to publications in first class scientific journals
- Academic activities linked to the PhD program also have been critical for the creation of essential University-based activities such as
 - the "*Certificat Universitaire*" in Clinical Pharmacy
 - the Centre for Clinical Pharmacy



But what about difficulties ?

- Difficulties tend (usually) to be proportional to the opportunities
- Opportunities offered by the scientific approach can be exploited only if carefully validated in the every day life
 - failure to do so will ruin our efforts,
 - but success in a given area will open new doors ...
- A main difficulty, however, is to convince the decision-making bodies that the Clinical Pharmacy not only is financially self-supporting but also yields a positive financial return for the Institution ...



Financial indicators ...

- Indicators are critically dependent on how the hospital is being financed ...
- In a "fee-for-service" system, the simple "drug acquisition cost approach" is not usable, and other criteria must be used (and proposed...) such as an analysis of the quality of the interventions (by a panel of MD's) with respect to
 - duration of hospital stay,
 - patient's satisfaction,
 - prevention of adverse effects, ...
 - direct demonstration in Internal Medicine and Surgery wards ...
 - ongoing program in Pediatrics ...
- But in the new system of "Global Budget" for drug-related expenses (which will be implemented on July 1st, 2006), things will change ...

Forfaitarisation de l'intervention de l'assurance pour les spécialités pharmaceutiques remboursables en hôpital

$$E_h = \sum S_{h.xy} * M_{xy}$$

$$E'_h = E_h + O_h + Tx_h$$

The real problem ?

I'm convinced that, in the next years, the greatest challenge will be to recruit a sufficiently large number of students for Pharmacy ...

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