



## Introduction on ESCP Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy

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Clinical Pharmacy, as a new branch of pharmaceutical care, was born in 1960s in the United States and grew rapidly over subsequent decades. This discipline encompasses a wide range of services in all health care settings. Clinical Pharmacists are vastly involved in the optimization of medication therapy, promotion of patient health, and reduction of financial burdens. Despite the highlighted role of clinical Pharmacists in health enhancement, only a few countries have benefited appropriately from their services.

Organizations such as American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP) have been founded to identify and promote areas of activity in clinical pharmacy. These organizations provide services for education, research, and advancement of pharmacy practice in clinical settings. These activities are aimed to emphasize the impact of Clinical Pharmacists among various health care practitioners.

ESCP, a well-known international association, has recruited over 500 members from more than 50 countries. ESCP has a wide range of pharmacists under its umbrella including clinical pharmacists, hospital pharmacists, community pharmacists, pharmacist educators, and researchers.

Besides clinical missions, ESCP is also following educational purposes. In parallel with core educational programs including symposia and conferences, the society also offers master classes and other educational courses. International conferences provide a unique opportunity for knowledge exchange, extensive communications and getting familiar with issues of the day.

The annual ESCP Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy, usually held in October, presents papers on pharmacotherapy, pharmacokinetics, and other issues linked to pharmacy practice. The 46<sup>th</sup> symposium, with the motto of "Science meets practice - towards evidence-based clinical pharmacy services." will take place in Heidelberg, Germany, October 2017. The upcoming symposium will discuss on the incorporation of evidence and practice. The appropriate utilization of evidence-based studies in daily practice will be debated. Likewise, the extraction of evidence from routine practice will be discussed more in-depth.

Accepted abstracts will be presented as posters. Selected abstracts will be presented in a poster discussion forum or as an oral communication and the participants have the opportunity to challenge authors on the main ideas of their works.

ESCP is also interested in promotion of clinical pharmacy in developing countries. In this regard, the symposium provides financial support for attendees from these countries to facilitate their participation. This will give them the opportunity to be benefited from new missions and visions.

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We encourage participation in such conferences to obtain real and deep perspectives in clinical pharmacy from pioneer countries, which could be effective in promotion of clinical pharmacy practice in developing countries.