



7. NORDDEUTSCHER ZYTOSTATIKA WORKSHOP

Report of the national german ISOPP congress as a contribution to the ISOPP Newsletter

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From January 29th to January 31st 1999, the national german ISOPP-congress, called "Norddeutscher Zytostatika-Workshop", took place in Hamburg for the seventh time. Among the 400 visitors were not only clinical pharmacists but also pharmacists of drug stores, who are caring for ambulatory patients.

In the general meeting of ISOPP-members votings of members of the german executive board took place.

Klaus Meier, Hamburg, and **Hannelore Kreckel**, Gießen, were confirmed as president and vice-president.

Among others an oncologist and the holder of the first chair of clinical pharmacy in Germany were chosen as associated members of the committee.

During this general meeting the european cooperation between **ISOPP** and **ESCP** (European Society of Clinical Pharmacists) and **EAHP** (European Society of Hospital Pharmacists) was pointed out as very important.

Two ISOPP members from Italy and Switzerland reported of their activities as members of a service society bringing in their know how to the health care team.

As to the congress' contents the program, presented by 40 speakers from Germany and foreign countries, such as **Prof. Jim Köller**, United States, and **Dr. Alain Astier**, Paris, inclosed not only up-dates to medical themes as immuntherapies, radiooncology, haematology and others but also options for pharmacists as important members of the health- care-team, developing for example therapeutic standards and collecting and analysing epidemiologic datas.

Besides that the outline of the second edition of quality-standards for the pharmaceutic- oncologic service were represented.

Like last year the discussions concerning the pros and cons of expensive cytotoxic drugs belonged once more to the congress' pharmaceutical highlights.

Independently of their own opinion the Pro- and Contra-advocates had to representative the respective points of view.

This time the controversial discussion focused on *Gemcitabin*, being a drug with good effects and little undesired side-effects on one side, but being an expensive, palliative drug, possibly used in oncology only as a better analgetic drug.

The second subject of discussion were the *biphosphonates*, stopping osteoclastic bone-destruction and soothing bone pain on the the one hand but being very expensive and hardly able to prolongate the patients life on the other side.

Hearing the respective Pro- and Contra-arguments the listeners should find their own opinions.

The next german ISOPP-congress will take place at the last weekend in January 2000.