

## **Budapest confirms the current trend. 4th EFPC Conference is concluded.**

European Federation of Chain Pharmacies is an independent, voluntary and non-governmental organisation that has earned a firm place among the major European players within the entire pharmaceutical sector. EFPC represents over 36,000 pharmacy professionals in more than 6,500 pharmacies in 6 European countries. It partners with national and European regulators and institutions. EFPC promotes an equitable and constructive approach to pharmacy care with the sole focus on the welfare of patients and clients of public pharmacies.

On October 24 and 25, 2023, the traditional 4th EFPC Professional Conference on "Patient of the 21st Century" was held at the Marriott Hotel in Budapest. The conference program was once again divided into 3 panels this year, which were attended by more than 80 direct participants in the congress hall.

The first panel was dedicated to the implementation of telemedicine and especially to the development of telepharmacy as part of a substantial change in the work of pharmacies. Daniel Horak, Chairman of EFPC Executive Committee, praised all 4 lectures of the 1st session. "I consider the biggest contribution of this year's conference to be the growing interest of the governments and the patients. These fundamentally increase adherence and the as yet underutilized potential of healthcare professionals for the benefit of patients".

The theme of the second panel of the conference was the topic of new services in pharmacies – ranging from vaccination to treatment and regimen interventions based on available shared data. Examples from different EFPC member countries showed how fast public pharmacies are moving into the realm of true health care facilities involved in the provision of curative and preventive care with the growing competence of raising the level of public health.

The third panel dealt with the somewhat traditional topic of medicinal shortages and the possibilities for pharmacies to respond to them for the benefit of patients. Speakers addressed optimizing interventions and measures to prevent, minimize, or offset the public health impact of medicinal outages.

On Hungarian EFPC member's recommendation, we were guided through the conference very competently and confidently by Ms. Krisztina Bombera, to whom we owe a great deal of gratitude for her excellent performance. "This was the 4th edition of our professional conference. Proof of the fact that it has already found its place among our pharmacists, operator managers, pharmaceutical industry and other stakeholders is the interest in the streaming version of the conference. Now we just need to agree within the federation where we will hold the 5th anniversary edition" says Zdeněk Blahuta, Executive Director of EFPC.

In Prague on 31.10.2023

PharmDr. Zdeněk Blahuta, MHA