

MistraPharma

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MistraPharma is a Swedish research programme funded by the Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (Mistra)

Improving environmental risk assessments of pharmaceuticals

MistraPharma PhD student Marlene Ågerstrand (KTH) recently presented her licentiate thesis, in which she examines how the transparency and predictability of environmental risk assessments of pharmaceuticals can be improved.

In two studies, Marlene Ågerstrand has investigated the intentions behind and the outcome of the



Photo: Christer Gummesson

Marlene Ågerstrand, PhD student, KTH

national voluntary environmental classification system for pharmaceuticals available at www.fass.se.

Among her findings were that a considerable number of the risk assessments did not comply with the guidance documents: data were used in an incorrect way, assessments were made using insufficient data, and in several cases additional data were available in the open scientific literature that would have altered the risk classification had they been used. In some cases different pharmaceutical companies even classified the same substance into different risk categories.

Marlene Ågerstrand and her co-authors suggest improvements to the system such as clarified concepts and instructions in the guidance document as well as a promotion of use of relevant non-standard test data.

Vendela Asp
MistraPharma

Seminar Tuesday January 18th in Stockholm: "Upstream" risk reduction measures for pharmaceuticals in the environment

Join us on a journey "From Tablet to Toilet" and learn how the pharmaceutical industry, the health care sector, the pharmacies, the commerces, and the governments can reduce the risks of pharmaceuticals in the environment.

At each train stop, an organisation or company will share good ideas and examples of risk reduction measures that can be applied TODAY. Speakers include MistraPharma project leader Jes la Cour Jansen and Karin Johansson, State Secretary at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

Don't miss this opportunity to get updated and meet other travellers on the trip from tablet to toilet. The complete invitation (in Swedish) can be read on the MistraPharma website www.mistrapharma.se.



Anders Finsson
Svenskt Vatten
Karin Liljelund and Helene Hagerman
MistraPharma

“Cheap drugs no reason to cut corners”

The Swedish pharmacy market has gone from one to twenty operators in eleven months, creating a need for a trade organisation to handle the companies' common interests. During its first year, the Swedish



Johan Wallér

Pharmacy Association (Sveriges Apoteksörening) has been fully occupied with re-regulation issues, i.e. to get the new pharmacy market up and running:

“Issues like quality, ethics, and safety have had to stand back so far, but I hope we can get the ‘real work’ going in 2011,” says Johan Wallér, CEO.

For Johan Wallér, environmental and sustainability perspectives are self-evident parts of the work. He wants to increase the sustainability in pharmaceutical usage, especially concerning generic drugs:

“Generic drugs are often produced in developing countries under miserable conditions for both the workers and the environment. Generic drugs are supposed to be cheap, but there is no reason to cut corners.”

As one way forward, Johan Wallér thinks that sustainability criteria should be included in the price regulations of the Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Agency (Tandvårds- och läkemedelsförmånsverket, TLV).

In addition, he thinks that the pharmacy operators should use sustainability as a means of competition: “They should use sustainability arguments to attract customers to their pharmacies. We need to include sustainability thinking along the entire production and usage chain.”

Vendela Asp
MistraPharma

New chair and new members of the MistraPharma programme board

As of September 2010, we are pleased to welcome Charlotte Unger, Senior Director, Environment, at the Medical Products Agency as the new chair of the MistraPharma programme board.

We also welcome two new board members: Nina Cromnier, Director-General of the National Chemicals Inspectorate (Kemikalieinspektionen); and Lena Söderberg, CEO of the Swedish Water & Wastewater Association (Svenskt Vatten).



Charlotte Unger



Nina Cromnier



Lena Söderberg

Looking towards MistraPharma phase 2

Next year (2011) is the fourth and last year of the first phase of MistraPharma and we are currently heavily involved in the process of applying for funding to run an additional four year phase (2012-2015).

The input from the reference group on the programme's overall priorities during phase 2 has been taken into account and the application should be submitted to Mistra by May 15.

During summer and early autumn 2011 MistraPharma will undergo a full evaluation of the results obtained during the first four years. In addition to this, there will also be an evaluation of how useful the generated knowledge is considered by the major stakeholders. Based on the evaluation and the new application we hope we can look forward to a continuation of MistraPharma for another four years.

Christina Rudén
The programme director for MistraPharma

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Karin Liljelund, Vendela Asp and Helene Hagerman

If you have any questions you are welcome to contact us!

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