The 14th edition of ESPACOMP was held in Lodz, Poland, from September 17-18, 2010. The growing interest in adherence-related research was reflected in the number of submissions, which nearly doubled that of previous year. Therefore, the programme of this two-days long meeting was packed with cutting edge research presentations. The thematic spectrum of these communications was wide ranging: from latest updates in adherence terminology, new methods of adherence measurement, up to latest interventions trying to improve adherence, including e-health. The symposium was lucky to host a number of excellent speakers.

In his opening Jean-Michel Métry Memorial Lecture, Prof. Michel Burnier from University Hospital of Lausanne pointed at the lack of the unequivocal evidence for superiority of combination pills over traditional ones. This question becomes burning one with the recent mass attack of the pharmaceutical industry. Aunia Grogan, Global Head of Adherence at Novartis, described the idea of Proteus system. With sensors being built in the pills, and connecting through the mobile phone with the server, this technology gives a unique opportunity to trace the pathways of single doses, including drug intake.

Marijn de Bruin from Wageningen University underscored the power of electronically compiled drug-dosing histories in improving adherence and treatment decision-making. Pepijn van de Ven from the University of Limerick extensively reviewed the use of e-health and telemedicine in improving adherence in Europe. Very interesting and new to this symposium were those topics related to regulatory and legal issues: Patient adherence in pre- and post-registration, by Ivo Abraham from University of Arizona, and the Law’s role in achieving patient adherence, by Stewart Duffy. These are just a few out of the number of outstanding presentations presented this year. The scientific program, as well as the full book of abstracts, and presentations in the PDF format, are downloadable from www.ESPACOMP.eu

For the first time, the ESPACOMP meeting was accompanied by a local educational initiative—namely, Polish Educational Day on Patient Adherence. This event gathered a number of doctors, pharmacist and nurses, interested in learning more about the topic, which they found to be highly relevant to their
daily practice. They enthusiastic opinions about the idea of the Day proved that there is still a lot to be done in the field of promotion of evidence-based solutions for non-adherence.

Last but not least, ESPACOMP 2010 was not only the top-class scientific event, the only of its kind in the world. It was also a time of a friendly meeting of scientists coming from as far as Australia, America, Asia and Europe, enjoyed historical buildings of Lodz, former capital of Polish textile industry, and took part in the attractive social program.

With all that in mind, now we look forward to the next ESPACOMP meeting, which will be definitely the special one. The 15th edition of ESPACOMP symposium will be held in Utrecht, the Netherlands, between September 23-24, 2011. With this jubilee, a number of attractive innovations will be introduced, including prizes for the best presentations. Please visit www.ESPACOMP.eu frequently for latest updates, and don’t miss the call for abstracts, which will be open soon!