

## EIPG elects a new President: Martini passes the baton to Paccioni

On the 21st April, at the General Assembly organized by hosts VAPI-UPIP in Brussels, the European Industrial Pharmacists Group (EIPG) elected its new President, Jean-Pierre Paccioni, president of the Central Council of Section B of the French Ordre National des Pharmaciens and outgoing Treasurer of EIPG, after outgoing President Gino Martini decided to call it a day.

Gino Martini was elected President of EIPG at the General Assembly in Prague in 2007. Jane Nicholson, Executive Director of EIPG, recalls: *"Gino's Presidency was timely for EIPG, coming, as it did, when membership of the European Union was expanding, and the European pharmaceutical industry was coping with new challenges in the practice of industrial pharmacy. He recognized the need for EIPG to grow as the need for greater collaboration amongst industrial pharmacists across Europe became more important."*

Indeed, Gino believed in seeing EIPG reach out as far as its resources would permit and beyond. Malta, Latvia, Portugal, Spain – Gino took EIPG to the edges of Europe. His charisma and energy attracted new organisations to EIPG. In his eyes, none were too small or unimportant, and he was determined that all members could, and should, each in their own way, contribute to the association.

Jean-Pierre is no stranger to the Presidency of EIPG, having previously held the post between 1998 and 2002. However, it is a different EIPG that he now inherits from Gino, and the challenges that the organization faced a decade ago pale in comparison with those it faces today. Emerging markets, mergers and acquisitions, reference pricing, medicines shortages, the increasing role of biotechnology: these are but a few of the challenges facing the European industrial pharmacist. Yet it is not an unprepared EIPG that Gino is bequeathing to Jean-Pierre. Throughout his Presidency, Gino had long prophesied the

shape of things to come and prepared for them. Piero Iamartino, Vice-President Technical and Professional Development of EIPG, reflects: *"Gino's vision of the future of the industry, and the challenges that such a future would present to industrial pharmacists, were always of great concern to him. He strived tirelessly and selflessly to see EIPG mature into an association that could be, and be seen to be, a key player in industrial pharmacy and a point of reference to the professionals to which this industry owes its continued ability to serve society."*

The baton of EIPG's leadership has been passed into the capable hands of an individual with an equally remarkable pedigree. Crucially, it has been passed with Olympic-winning smoothness, a transition so necessary in these troubled times where the pharmaceutical industry appears delicately poised between Pharmageddon and Renaissance. Jean-Pierre has already declared the priorities of his Presidential mandate as an increased EIPG visibility: a strengthened influence on the European institutions and consolidated links with partner associations, and working groups on technical issues. Thus, in the words of the new President, Gino *"will continue to be part of the future of EIPG in the same unique way that he is part of its past and its present."*; but then, as those who have worked closely with them have long known, both men share a kindred, determined commitment to European industrial pharmacists. *"Industrial pharmacists in Europe should get to know each other better and raise their profile to be recognized by the European institutions. I am pleased to take over the presidency of EIPG to give a new impetus to that association and benefit from the pharmaceutical expertise of the different member countries."*, declared Jean-Pierre upon his election. A statement to fill us with hope for the future.

*Bienvenue à la barre, mon ami.*

Claude Farrugia, Vice President Communications  
EIPG