

The shape of pharma to come

Welcome to the September issue of *European Industrial Pharmacy*. As I pen this editorial, the last days of summer are passing away, and I hope that you all had the opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved break. Certainly, the industry has shown no sign of any lull in activity. Indeed, as I look over the events of the last few months, I am

reminded of Professor Luigi Martini's prediction of pharma heading for the perfect storm years ago. How right he was – this year's events and the events that they herald, in my opinion, are nothing short of cataclysmic.

The defining activity for 2014 has to be the breathless pace of merger and acquisition activity – and the best (or the worst?) is yet to come. The year's two most hotly debated mergers still weigh in the balance, and are likely to evoke high emotions in the players involved, as well as in politicians and society as concerns and scrutiny abound. My concern, and that of my colleagues on the Bureau, is the inevitable consequence to industrial pharmacists and other colleagues caught in the cross-fire of the moment and its aftermath. I speak of the loss of employment that follows,



notwithstanding all previous assurances, as streamlining and expense curtailment are imposed on the new entities to ensure that rising expenses and demands for lower market prices do not sink the ship on its maiden voyage. The fact that such events are inevitable is of little consolation to the unsung heroes in the story of every medicinal product – indeed, perhaps it is all the more saddening that their potential

plight appears not to provoke the necessary prophylaxis until it is too late.

I cannot promise that EIPG can prevent all this. To those who experience the *douche glacée* of having to seek new employment having donated years of their every thought and effort to making a difference in the quality of life of patients, I can, however, promise that EIPG is concerned and does care – collectively and individually – and will continue to do its best to support industrial pharmacists as they seek their roles in tomorrow's pharma.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claude Farrugia'.

Professor Claude Farrugia
Vice-President Communications, EIPG

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