

# TAKE ON EURO VISION

**The European Pharmaceutical Students' Association represents pharmacy students in European countries. Marisabelle Bonnici explains more about the EPSA and one of its events, the summer university**

Marisabelle Bonnici was chairman of the EPSA's summer university in 2007

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The European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA) represents pharmacy students in European countries and provides a way for these students to meet and spend time together. The EPSA holds three congresses a year: autumn assembly, annual congress and the summer university. The summer university will be held in Manchester in July 2008. More details will be available soon on the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association website ([www.bpsa.co.uk](http://www.bpsa.co.uk)). It is set to be a great event with many pharmacy students from the UK and from Europe.

In 2007, the summer university was held in Malta between the 30 July and 5 August. Malta certainly offers an idyllic background in summer — it is a magnificent island in the heart of the Mediterranean sea with golden, sandy beaches, crystal-clear waters, great weather, warm and friendly people, and an exciting night life.

As chairperson of the reception committee I have experienced both sides of the coin when it comes to the EPSA's summer university, that is, the great amount of work and dedication required to prepare such an event, and also the satisfaction, fun and great EPSA spirit which develops as the event unfolds. Around 100 participants gathered in Malta last July; young pharmacists and pharmacy students all with a vision for the future and all wanting to gain knowledge and experience. Speakers were recruited for the various lectures and workshops based on the educational theme of the

event: "a future within the pharmaceutical industry". Various topics were covered, including pharmacogenetics, medicinal chemistry, pharmacoeconomics and quality. Training camps on the topic of good manufacturing practice were also given. These consisted of videos and practical information that we can now share with our fellow students and colleagues in pharmacy.

Of course we cannot forget the amazing nights of partying. The week in Malta included an opening party, a themed party, a European evening, a barbeque and beach party, and a visit to Paceville, Malta's hottest nightlife district. In true EPSA style we were partying everyday until dawn. One cannot fail to mention the full day boat trip to the sister island of Comino where we spent a day swimming in the blue lagoon. Paradise!

So, if you are looking for a way to spend your next summer and if you want to experience a week of fun and education, and experience the amazing EPSA spirit, I suggest you attend the 10th EPSA summer university in Manchester next summer. I have already planned my next summer in such a way that I can be there, what about you? ■