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Patient access to innovative medicines in Europe.doc / Thomas Kaltenbacher

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Access to medicines

Innovative medicines in current health systems

Special interest session B1

Patient access to innovative medicines in Europe

The goal of fulfilling patients' needs for appropriate medication can only be achieved if competitiveness in the pharmaceutical field is improved according to Prof. Angela Coulter from the Picker Institute. It is in the patients interest to have access to medication that is also affordable. With the advent of the Euro patients will have an opportunity to compare medication prices all over Europe, which makes cost-effectiveness of medicine a current issue.

Patients should play an active role in monitoring their experience with medication as to allow for explicit evaluation of side effects and what symptoms occur with a medication.

Rodney Elgie from GAIMAN hit the nail on the head by pointing out how cheap, poor quality drugs first of all do not comply and secondly side effects may lead to serious problems such as alcohol abuse, drug abuse and even suicide.

With modern drugs treatment of illnesses will improve and thus slow down the generic process of diseases like for example multiple sclerosis. Hence it is essential to make this medicines accessible to patients and fast, Rodney Elgie confirmed