

Dear reader,

*Another amazing EPSA event has just ended, and the next one is already approaching... it is the 34th EPSA Annual Congress that will be held from the 26th of April until the 2nd of May in Krakow, Poland. Registrations will start in the beginning of December!*

*I hope to see you all in Krakow and I also hope that you will enjoy reading this Information Letter, it contains the hottest topics of Pharmacy for the month of October!*

**Keep yourself updated!**



Mariana Fróis  
EPSA Information Officer 2009/2010  
E-mail: [epsa.info@gmail.com](mailto:epsa.info@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 00351 967230717

## NEWS

### Merck and Schering-Plough Merge

Reuters

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2009 Merck & Co. and Schering-Plough finalized their merger, making a major consolidation of two venerable New Jersey drug makers, creating the world second-largest drug maker, behind Pfizer Inc.

The Schering-Plough name will be dropped and the company will work under the Merck name. This is the second huge deal in pharmacy industry in recent weeks after Pfizer Inc., the world largest drug maker, closed its roughly \$67 billion acquisition of Wyeth last month.

[Read more...](#)



### Norway Offers Swine Flu Drugs Without a Doctor's Prescription

Wham.com

Tamiflu and Relenza are now sold in Norwegian pharmacies without medical prescription. In response to the rapid spread of swine flu, the Health Minister Anne-Grete Strem-Erichsen, opened for pharmacists to prescribe these drugs to ease the availability of the drugs because of the need to start treatment within 48 hours. The policy went under effect on the 5th of November 2009 and will last until the middle of 2010. This is the first time pharmacists have had prescription rights in Norway.

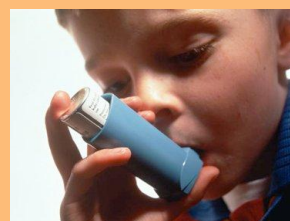
Norway has ordered 9.4 million doses of swine flu vaccine — enough for two per Norwegian — but the manufacturer has not produced the vaccine quickly enough to meet the demand. Until now over 600,000 Norwegians have been infected with swine flu and fifteen have died. [Read more...](#)



### Acetaminophen May Be Linked to Asthma Risk

WebMD

A study held by Canadian researchers has shown that Acetaminophen, the popular pain and fever relieve, may be linked with an increased risk of asthma in children and adults. The manufacturer of Tylenol (commercial name of Acetaminophen) says the painkiller has a well-established safety record. According to this study, the risk of asthma in adults who used acetaminophen was 74% higher than in those who did not. [Read more...](#)



## JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

### Mother Can Pass Cancer to Unborn Baby

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences



Researchers at the Institute of Cancer Research have studied the case of a 28-years old Japanese woman that have gave birth and one month later was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and died 19 days later with encephalitis. The baby has shown no signs of illness in the first eleven months until she was taken to the hospital with a swollen cheek. Tests revealed she had a tumor in her jaw and the cancer had spread to her lungs.

DNA tests revealed that cancer cells of both mother and child shared the same mutated gene and that cancer was spread before birth. The mutated cells were not recognized by the baby immune system because they were missing a vital piece of DNA that plays a key role in immune system function. [Read more...](#)

### Babies «Cry In Mother's Tongue»

Journal Current Biology



German researchers say that babies' cries imitate their mother tongue as early as 3 days old and they begin to pick up the nuances of their parents' accents while still in the womb. The study was held on 60 healthy babies born to families speaking French and German. According to this study the French newborns cried with a rising "accent" while the German babies' cries had a falling inflection.

The research team said that babies are probably trying to imitate their mothers in order to create a bond with them. [Read more...](#)

## EPSA News

### First IMP Coordination Board Training

Journal Trends in Ecology and Evolution



On the 23rd and 24th of October, right after Autumn Assembly, Jurij Obreza (Central IMP Coordinator) and Bostjan Čeh (EPSA Honorary Life Member) held the first IMP Coordination Board training for National and Local IMP Coordinators. The main goal of this training was to prepare coordinators to arrange new IMP placements, to exchange experiences in IMP logistics and administration fields and to strengthen the cooperation within the team.

17 IMP Coordination Board Members and IMP Enthusiasts from 12 European countries attended this training.

More IMP trainings will be organized in the near future in order to, step by step, build great foundations for the most exciting and promising project of EPSA.