

Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG) holds first videoconference meeting

The Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG), consisting of representatives from the European Pharmacopoeia (Ph.Eur.), Japanese Pharmacopoeia (JP) and the United States Pharmacopoeia (USP) with WHO (International Pharmacopoeia) as Observer, held its first interim videoconference on Wednesday 11 April 2018.

As indicated in the meeting highlights of September 2017 ([link](#)), the PDG had decided to review its meeting formats to engage more at the technical level and introduce teleconferences, as a more direct opportunity for exchanges between the experts in the regions in order to resolve issues on specific PDG topics. This resulted in changes in the format and frequency of the face-to-face meetings, which will take place once a year with one interim video conference with the purpose of the main meetings to focus more on strategic direction setting. The first such video conference took place on 11 April 2018.

Since the last PDG meeting, technical conferences providing a virtual space for experts from the three regions were organised on two items: Q-09 Particulate contamination and E-62 SWFI (Sterile Water For Injection). During the PDG video conference, the Coordinating Pharmacopoeia reported back on the successes of these technical conferences in solving sticking points and thus progress made in these fields since the last PDG meeting.

The PDG also continued its strategic review of individual work items and agreed to launch a pilot phase to try a prioritisation scheme for excipient monographs and general chapters. This trial phase concerns 10 excipient monographs and 5 general chapters; at the next PDG face-to-face meeting it will be decided whether to expand the prioritisation scheme to the other items on PDG work programme or not.

The next annual face-to-face PDG meeting will be hosted by the Ph.Eur. on October 2-3, 2018 at the EDQM premises in Strasbourg, France.