



## Country report The Netherlands 2011-2013: Dutch Industrial Pharmacists Association (NIA)

### Mission

Dutch Industrial Pharmacists Association (NIA) represents the interests of industrial pharmacists, (bio)pharmaceutical scientists and trainees with (past) employment in industrial pharmacy; as well as other academic graduates with employment in and with demonstrable, special interest in industrial pharmacy. As such, NIA promotes all aspects of industrial pharmacy.

### Vision

NIA was founded in 1955, and is fully independent from pharmaceutical industries, wholesalers, companies liaised to pharmaceutical industry, and government. NIA-members are members on personal title; as such, NIA does not represent the interests of pharmaceutical companies or sectors (like innovative, generic etc.) in pharmaceutical industry.

In order to achieve its mission NIA uses the following instruments:

- Represent social interests of its members, a.o. by means of networking with government
- Enhance educational opportunities for both starters and a continuous education program
- Organise lectures, symposia and industry visits covering all areas of industrial pharmacy
- Sponsor and offer practical support to student initiatives to get to know pharma industry
- Network with universities and participate in academic educational programs in order to guard that academia delivers M.Sc.'s fit for pharma industry
- Enhance liaisons with other (international) organizations in the field of pharmaceutical industry or education, like Royal Dutch Pharmaceutical Society (KNMP)

### How we are organized

The **NIA board** – at present chaired by Florentine Nieuwmeyer, Ph.D. Pharm.D. - coordinates NIA's activities, networks with (inter)national government, associations and members and deals with actual issues and files that may professionally have impact on NIA members.

NIA has three sections, dedicated to a field of interest:

**NIA, section Production and Quality (P&K);** with a focus on mutual exchange of knowledge and information related to all aspects of manufacturing, GMP, quality control and batch disposition. Seminars, (informal) meetings and plant visits are organized.

**NIA, section Regulatory Affairs and Development (RA&D);** with a focus on mutual exchange of knowledge and information related to the drug development track and issues in the regulatory field.

**NIA, section Starting Talented Industrial Pharmaceutical experts (STIP)**; focus on young professionals in the pharmaceutical industry (up to 5 years of working experience). Networking and knowledge sharing community.

There are several committees, among which **PromoCie** to liaise with students and inform them about NIA and pharmaceutical industry as a potential employer; **Social Media Committee**, to manage the NIA website plus to promote initiatives around social media; **Committee for professional registration and continuous education**, last but not least, to create a register for registration and periodical re-registration of industrial pharmacists in line with Dutch legislation. Moreover, this committee has the responsibility to make a portfolio of training modules and courses for which accreditation has been granted, since continuous education is playing a crucial role in professional registration.

There is participation of **NIA members** in a.o. relevant committees of **KNMP – education, professionalism** – and in **European Industrial Pharmacists Group (EIPG)**.

### Summary of NIA activities 2011-2013

Main issue is how to accommodate new national legislation – entered into force as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 – with regard to periodical professional re-registration (once per 5 years), in order not to lose the protected title of pharmacist. Apart from community pharmacists and hospital pharmacists - performing patient-related activities - the industrial pharmacist is explicitly mentioned as being experts in product related tasks such as manufacturing, drug development, registration, pharmacovigilance, QC and QA. Re-registration requires demonstrable professional experience of 2080 hours in 5 years. Lack of this professional experience in a period of 5 (or more) years requires additional education, on the level of academic pharmacist graduation. The modules are in early stage of development. Selected other activities 2011-2013:

- yearly New Year's meeting: lecture, training or workshop, communications from the Board, informal networking meal
- at least once a year General Assembly of members, with lecture, subsequently networking meal
- monthly Board meetings
- symposium "Vaccines: Key to Success" (organized by section RA&D)
- training on non-verbal communication (organized by the Board, subsequent to a GA)
- participation + lectures (R. Wolters, past chair NIA; A.R. Wafelman) on industry needs in academic pharmacy curriculum in a Utrecht University – NIA meeting (preceding a GA)
- symposium on GDP (organized by section P&K)

### Agenda NIA delegate-to-EIPG

I intend to become the intermediary between NIA Board and sections P&K and RA&D at one hand and EIPG at the other. With regard to commenting on guidelines, my contacts with P&K and RA&D need to be intensified. By experience, being past hospital pharmacist and QP Parenterals at present, my primary fields of interest are production and quality.

As far as EIPG concerns, I would like to suggest that an inventory is made of the members' fields of interest. This may enhance information exchange through the year as well as promote forming of discussion/working groups per pharmaceutical field of interest (e.g. Regulatory, R&D, QC, disposition, production etc.), that at least yearly meet during EIPG General Assembly.