



**FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES MEDECINS SALARIES
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Several issues dominate news from the 2011 fall season: the crisis of the drugs, changes in hospitals' staff and professional elections to come.

The Médiator® scandal revealed the characteristics of the drug circuit in France since its invention and design and finally its marketing and commercialization. Reports, parliamentary inquiries have highlighted the implication of laboratories by their research units, of experts in their field of experimentation, and of the controlling authorities on the authorization to bring drugs in the market. Thus, the necessary independence of research, expertise and marketing decision do not seem confirmed. Finally the lack of consultation and European regulation was noted: a drug can be taken off the market in a EU country without triggering immediate withdrawal in the other countries.

This summer, delays in drugs supply were found in private pharmacies and hospital pharmacies. The reason is based on the strategy of pharmaceutical manufacturing and delivery. Production would be adapted to changes in orders and follow the technique of lean. Patient organizations and health professionals have protested against the shortage of medicines.

The ordering of the French public hospitals finances is on going and involves staff management. Reinforced by its status as unique boss, the hospital director's main task is to balance the revenue from the activities and expenses, mainly represented by wages. We are witnessing the systematic non-replacement of departing staff. In addition, the change in the status of nurses, offering to integrate the Class A civil servants, rushed to their departure. Indeed this development requires them to work longer and forbids them to retire before the age of 60. Many nurses retain their current status, assert their right to retire and return to work as interim combining employment and retirement. Finally, despite the reinforcement by nurses from southern Europe the shortage is growing: the nursing schools are not filling sufficiently the departures.

The shortage also affects hospital physicians despite the influx of professionals from the new EU countries. We observe the rise of the alternative through the interim and mercenary. Doctors now holding half time practice in hospitals and supplement their income by acting in other hospitals. The destruction of teams of hospital staff, reducing the quality of the overall patients' care is on-going.

The coming months of hospital life will be marked by two elections. One, the election of the Hospital Medical Council, has as primary purpose the election of a president who will become vice-chairman of the Board. The Executive Board is the decision-making body of

the hospital and is chaired by the director of the institution.

The other, the professional elections will designate the national trade-unions representatives from different colleges to the Disciplinary Board and the Statutory national Commission. They provide an opportunity for union representatives to gauge their influence, and especially by their number of elected members to assert their national representativeness. All future negotiations, all signatures of agreement will be directly conditioned by the respective weight in the elections of their signatories.

But the big upcoming election is the presidential election in April-May 2012, and in this pre-election period books on health are published. A "Manifesto for a solidary and equity health" was published, signed by the SNPHARe's President Nicole Smolski. The SNPHARe will publish its book "The hospital in intensive care" and present it to the press November 9, 2011.