

## How PDGs have moved on

Pharmacy development groups have moved on from small beginnings as groups of enthusiasts to provide shining examples of best practice, PDG members heard at the fourth annual PDG conference, hosted by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society on 19 November. David Pruce, the Society's professional development fellow, said that if primary care organisations (PCOs) did not already have links with PDGs they would soon want them.

The aim of the conference was to suggest ways in which PDGs could develop a mature relationship with their local PCO and to explore the present and future roles of PDGs.

The Society's professional development manager, Anne Adams, said that a survey of 28 PDGs in 2001 had found that over two-thirds were either evolving or well established. This had implications for the way in which the Society helped them. The Society had offered funding to help set up PDGs, but this might not be the best support for them in future. The Society needed to hear what were their likely needs in the longer term.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) were not interested in pharmacy, but in what pharmacists could do for patients, said the Society's President, Marshall Davies who is a non-executive director of Newark and Sherwood PCT). PCTs needed to be told what pharmacists could do. Pharmacists had to take the initiative and get known to the key PCT players, including the chairman, chief executive officer and medical director, and also the non-executive directors.

Developing the theme of building relationships with PDGs, Jane Newman, professional executive committee member, Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT, explained that every Essex PCO had community pharmacy representation, thanks to the local pharmaceutical committee (LPC). The LPC had been asked to nominate suitable candidates against a competency framework to represent community pharmacy on PCT professional executive committees (PECs).

The establishment of the Essex Community Pharmacy Practice Development Unit had enhanced communication with the PCTs. Launched with LPC funding, it provided a horizon scanning function and developed projects and bids for PEC pharmacists to present to their PCT when the opportunity arose. In addition, an executive pharmacist forum had now run for over a year. Funded by the PCT, it provided an opportunity to share experiences, gain support from peers and acquire formal training. Each meeting was hosted by a PCT, the chief executive of which was invited to talk about his or her

perceptions of pharmacy and expectations of a PEC pharmacist.

The challenge of engaging all local pharmacists in a PDG had been achieved once by paying pharmacists to attend meetings, resulting in a 100 per cent turnout. Other possible solutions included continuing professional development accreditation for meeting attendance, and this was being considered, again with LPC funding.

In a presentation on clinical governance, the Society's head of clinical governance, Catherine Dewsbury, said that patient safety was of paramount importance to PCTs. The quality of services, including clinical governance, was the mechanism by which safety was provided. PCTs applied clinical governance to all health professions, and community pharmacists could not opt out.

Pharmacists could help the NHS deliver on risk management — a crucial component of clinical governance — for several reasons. First, medicines were high volume, high risk items, representing about 15 per cent of the NHS budget. Secondly, pharmacists, as experts in medicines, could help achieve maximum health gain for patients. Thirdly, pharmacists were used to managing risk (eg, dispensing checks, intervention monitoring, quality assurance, peer review in medicines information, developing written operating procedures). Fourthly, pharmacists prevented GP errors reaching patients. Finally, pharmacists were used to being accountable for what they did. However, pharmacists did have to demonstrate what they could do.

Continuing the theme of demonstrating pharmacists' value, Kerry Crabb (fundraising and development officer, Pharmacy Practice Research Trust) highlighted the importance of research. The trust helped pharmacists conduct practice research by offering bursaries to cover salary, research costs, conference costs and academic fees. The funding was open to pharmacists who currently worked in community pharmacy other than for large chains. Applications were welcome for taught MScs and research degrees (either part-time or full-time) in public health, sociology or a non-clinical field. Advertisements for the 2003 bursaries would appear in *The Journal* soon.

### OFFICIAL NOTICES

*Communications to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain should be addressed, except where otherwise stated, to the Secretary and Registrar, The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7735 9141; fax 020 7735 7629).*

#### Statutory Committee decisions

Set out below is the outcome of recent inquiries heard before the Statutory Committee of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

On Wednesday 20 November 2002, in the resumed inquiry into **Rabinder Thind**, of 21 Walden Road, Hornchurch, Essex, the committee, having found misconduct established, resolved to direct the Registrar to remove Mrs Thind's name from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists. Under Section 11 of the Pharmacy Act 1954, this direction is not to take effect until the expiration of a period of three months from the date on which notice of removal is given or in a case where an appeal has been brought against the direction, until the appeal is determined or withdrawn. In the inquiry into **Rajnikant Jashbhai Patel**, of 2 Staplehurst Road, Hither Green, London SE13, the committee, having found the convictions proved, resolved to reprimand Mr Patel. In the application for restoration of **Chhaganbhai Dahyabhai Nathubhai Mistry**, of 17 South End Road, London NW3, the committee resolved to direct that the name of Mr Mistry should not be restored to the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists. In the application for restoration of **Yash Pal Kansal**, of 57 Oxford Street, Oldham, the committee resolved to adjourn the hearing of the application to 11.30am on Thursday 21 November 2002.

On Thursday 21 November 2002, in the inquiry into **Anthony Farrell**, of 250 Grimshaw Lane, Middleton, Manchester 24, the Committee, having found the convictions proved and the misconduct established, resolved to direct that Mr Farrell's name should not be restored to the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists, until the Committee otherwise directs. Under Section 10 of the Pharmacy Act 1954, there is a right of appeal to the High Court against the Committee's decision, provided the appeal is lodged within three months of the Committee's decision. In the resumed hearing of **Yash Pal Kansal's** application for restoration (see above), the committee resolved to adjourn the hearing to a date to be fixed.

M. B. PAWLUCZYK (Mrs)  
Secretary to the  
Statutory Committee

DIARY

HEADQUARTERS MEETINGS

*The following meetings take place at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's headquarters, London*

Monday 2 December	
Council reserve day	10.30am
Tuesday 3 December	
Council reserve day	9am
Meeting of Officers	1pm
Council meeting	3.30pm
Council guest night	7 for 7.30pm
Wednesday 4 December	
Council meeting	9am

LOCAL MEETINGS

*Events listed below are meetings of branches or regions of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Details of all future meetings notified to The Journal appear in the Diary section of PJ Online (www.pjonline.com/noticeboard)*

Monday 2 December

**Derby** "Obesity and its management" by Dawn Goudge (senior dietitian). Postgraduate Centre, Kingsway Hospital, Derby. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**East Kent** "Pharmacist prescribing" by Dr June Crown (chairman, Royal Pharmaceutical Society pharmacist prescribing group). Howfield Manor Hotel, Chartham Hatch, Canterbury. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Mid Glamorgan East** "Osteoporosis". Postgraduate Medical Centre, Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Llantrisant. 6.45 for 7.30pm.

Tuesday 3 December

**Brighton** "Male infertility and its treatment" by Charles Coker (consultant urologist,

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Brighton General Hospital. 8pm.

**Central Lancashire** "Continuing professional development" by CPD local supporters. Imperial Hotel, Blackpool. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

**Cheltenham and Gloucester** Wine tasting with cheese and biscuits. Cheltenham Postgraduate Centre, College Lawn, Cheltenham. 7.45pm. (£7.50 per person.)

**Clwyd** "Medication review and pharmaceutical care planning". Oriol House Hotel, St Asaph. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 7.45pm.

**Leicestershire** "Treatment of arthritis". Leicester Tigers Ground, Aylestone Road, Leicester. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.45pm.

**Northern Scottish** "Getting started in pharmacy practice research" by Dr Catherine Sinclair (research and development manager, Highlands and Islands Health Research Institute). Marriott Hotel, Culcabock Road, Inverness. Refreshments. 7.30pm.

**Northamptonshire** "Practical aspects of diabetes" by Debbie Woods (Aventis). Monsoon, Kettering. Hot food available afterwards. 7 for 7.30pm.

**Oxfordshire** "Continuing professional development" by Jennifer Archer (Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education). Level 3, George Pickering Postgraduate Medical Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital. Seasonal refreshments with wine. 7.30 for 8pm.

**Sheffield** "Current treatment approaches in HIV and AIDS" by Emma Doyle (director pharmacist for infectious diseases, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield). Charnwood Hotel, 10 Sharrow Lane, Sheffield. Light buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Wednesday 4 December

**Crawley, Horsham and Reigate** "Poisoning of botanical origin: clinically illustrated

with case studies" by Dr David Donaldson (consultant biologist). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Crawley Hospital. 8pm.

**Solihull** "The work of the paramedic" by Richard Grove (Solihull Ambulance Service). Education Centre, Solihull Hospital. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.45pm.

**West Cumberland** Quiz night: quizmaster Peter Walton. Hundith Hill Hotel. 7.15 for 7.30pm, followed by bar supper.

**Worthing and West Sussex** "Diabetes: developments and opportunity for pharmacy" by Dr G. Caldwell (consultant in endocrinology, Worthing and Southlands Hospitals Trust) and Sara da Costa (diabetes nurse consultant). Worthing Postgraduate Medical Centre, Park Avenue, Worthing. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Thursday 5 December

**Bolton** Visit to SSL International (Seton), Oldham, including tour of site. Buffet. Coach from Bolton at 7.15pm. Details from Keith Williams (tel 01204 842314).

**Dudley and Stourbridge** "Clinical governance for community pharmacy in Dudley" by Patrick McGraghan and Duncan Jenkins (pharmacy clinical governance leads). Medical Services Centre, Corbett Hospital. 7.45 for 8pm.

**Hounslow** GlaxoSmithKline headquarters tour, followed by Christmas dinner in Red restaurant.

**Huddersfield** Christmas quiz and social evening. Crosland Hill Golf Club. 8pm.

**Lanarkshire** Quiz night. Hilton Strathclyde Hotel, Bellshill. 8pm.

**North Staffordshire** "Palliative care" by Sue Hiron (community palliative care team leader, Douglas McMillan Home, Stoke on Trent). Nadine Lecture Theatre, North Staffordshire Medical Institute. 8pm.

**South Staffordshire** "Acupuncture" by Dr Gunstone. Lichfield Cathedral, Study Centre. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Monday 9 December

**Nottingham** "Managing risk with medicines" by Professor David Cousins (head, safe medication practice, Patient Safety Agency). School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham. Finger buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

PERSONAL

*This column is intended for announcements of births, engagements, marriages, anniversaries, etc. The charge for an insertion is £18 for up to 25 words, and £7 for every additional 10 or fewer words. Personal cheques only (payable to The Pharmaceutical Journal) should be sent with the notice to the Editor, The Pharmaceutical Journal, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN. The sender's address and membership number, if applicable, should be on the reverse of the cheque.*

BIRTHS

**Stembridge** Mark (ex-Manchester 1992-95) and Annette (née Hawker, ex-Manchester, French, 1993-97) are delighted to announce the birth of their son William on 17 November 2002.