

The Society

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Consultation document seeks members' views on changing the Society's Charter

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council is asking pharmacists to examine and comment on a suggested draft new Royal Charter for the Society, which will add a number of powers to those contained in the current Charter and will broaden some of the existing powers.

Following last week's announcement that the Council intends to seek a new Charter, the draft is set out in a consultation paper that forms an eight-page pull-out section in this week's *Pharmaceutical Journal*. The paper gives the full text of both the current Charter and the draft and provides a table comparing the two.

The document is careful to explain that the draft is no more than an indicator of how things might look, based on the legal advice that has been taken to date and the comments of the Council.

The Council asks members for their initial views by 22 April to help inform discussion at the Society's annual general meeting and branch representatives' meeting.

Explanatory notes within the consultation paper state that the Council's aim is to ensure that the Society continues to enjoy the flexibility and autonomy of a body incorporated and governed by Charter. The new Charter should ensure that the Society is fully equipped and empowered to fulfil its integrated functions and strengthen its wider professional role, the paper says.

The document goes on to explain that a Royal Charter is a way of turning a body from a collection of individuals into a single legal entity with all the powers of a person, including the power to hold property and act in its own right. New grants of Royal Charters are generally reserved for professional bodies and charities, for both of which incorporation by Charter is presupposed to be in the public interest.

The paper says that the Society is governed by both Charter and legislation, with its chartered status giving it flexibility and autonomy and allowing it to undertake a broad range of activities beyond those defined in legislation, provided they do not conflict with the public interest.

The paper says that, because a Charter is an enabling document, the objects and pow-

ers contained in it should be as broad and high-level as possible. The objects should be a succinct statement of purpose and the functions that support and derive from this should be stated in powers. The Charter should not list everything that the Society could do, but it should not prevent the Society from doing anything it currently does or should be doing.

The document goes on to state that the current Charter is out of date in a number of respects. For example, modern requirements for good governance mean that it should make explicit what is currently implicit, such as confirming that the Society's powers will be exercised for the public benefit; and describing the purposes for which the Society's assets may be used. It is also out of date

Consultation agenda

Speaking at a briefing for the pharmacy press on 13 March, the Society's President, Marshall Davies, said that consultation on the Charter will probably go on for about six months. The Society is developing a consultation agenda that will include roadshows at venues across Britain, starting in May. There will also be extra funding to help the Society's branches hold special meetings. The Charter will be discussed at the Society's annual general meeting and branch representatives' meeting in May.

The President said that the Society needed to consult widely because it had to convince the Privy Council that a new Charter was desirable and in the public interest. As well as the membership, the consultation would involve patient groups, the National Health Service, other health professions, the public and the Government.

in that the requirement to seek Privy Council approval for all Byelaw changes limits the Society's ability to regulate its internal affairs. The Charter's focus on advancing chemistry is no longer appropriate when many of today's medicines derive from the biological sciences. In addition, the provisions relating to property are out of date. All these deficiencies are remedied in the draft.

The paper says that the draft Charter has been designed to remedy such anomalies and to ensure that the Society is properly equipped for its role as a modern regulator and professional body, with clear and appropriate powers and functions.

The reasons for seeking a new Charter are set out in the recital that begins the draft. This refers to representation by the Council that "the Society should in the public interest be more appropriately equipped to function both as a modern regulator and to lead the strategic development and policies of the profession, and support the science and practice of pharmacy and to contribute to the wider public debate on the role of the profession of pharmacy in contributing to the health of the public".

The document says that, in setting out the Society's objects, the draft makes explicit the Society's function of protecting the public through professional regulation, allowing the Charter to better reflect the Society's functions of leading, developing and regulating the pharmacy profession. It carries forward the promotion of members' interests in the exercise of the profession of pharmacy, but it broadens this to encompass others engaged in related activities. It makes explicit that these powers will be exercised consistent with the public benefit.

The draft carries forward the Society's powers set out in the current Charter but also lists a number of powers the Society has that are not explicitly set out in the current Charter. Among them are powers to promote public understanding of pharmacy, to maintain libraries and collections, to encourage, fund, commission and publish research, to insure the Society against potential liabilities, to co-operate with other bodies and to establish subsidiary organisations. Also set out are various financial powers and the power to carry on trade.

Society briefs Welsh health minister on its reform plans

The Welsh Minister for Health and Social Services, Jane Hutt, has been given a briefing on the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's plans to reform its role, remit and ways of working to create a modern, effective and efficient regulatory and professional body for pharmacy.

The briefing took place on 18 March, when the Minister and civil servants met the Society's President (Marshall Davies), Secretary and Registrar (Ann Lewis), Welsh Executive Chairman (Andrea Robinson) and Welsh Executive Secretary (Cath O'Brien).

Mrs Robinson told the minister that the Welsh Executive, as an integral part of the Society, is equally committed to meeting its responsibilities to the public and the profession. She said: "As a professional body, the

Society seeks to lead and develop the profession. The Welsh Executive is responsible for implementing Society policy here in Wales and it will continue to take a lead in progressing developments in Wales."

The Minister heard that the Society recognises the need for devolution within its modernisation programme. Although regulation of the pharmacy profession has not been devolved and the Society will be accountable to the Westminster Parliament, there is recognition that both the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Parliament have health policy responsibilities and are developing their own strategies and priorities.

Mrs Robinson said that, with service delivery differing in the three home coun-

tries, the new approach to professional self-regulation is implicit in documents emerging in Wales and Scotland. "We recognise the importance of working with the Welsh Assembly Government to support developments in pharmacy for the people of Wales," she said.

The Minister also heard that the Society's reformed Council would include at least one pharmacist from each of Wales, Scotland and England. The pharmacists filling these reserved places would be elected by members of the Society in the relevant country. The government chief pharmacists of Wales, Scotland and England would be invited to attend appropriate parts of Council meetings and to contribute to debate, but would not have voting rights.

New practice guidance on testing body fluids published

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has produced an updated and expanded document giving practice guidance on the testing of body fluids. The document replaces guidance that was formerly given in 'Medicines, ethics and practice: a guide for pharmacists' but was omitted from the current edition because of the revision.

Among the changes in the revised guidance is a requirement that a pharmacy that tests body fluids must have a designated area with suitable facilities for performing the tests and for storing and disposing of clinical waste. The previous guidance required only that the specimen collection and the test itself should not be undertaken within the dispensary or anywhere where food or drink is consumed.

The new guidance also says that there should be a designated consultation area in which to provide counselling for the patient. The previous guidance just specified "an appropriate area" for counselling.

A paragraph on obtaining patient consent has been expanded to specify that the consent must be in writing. It says that valid consent requires the patient to have a broad understanding of the nature and purpose of the test procedure and any significant risk

involved in having or not having the test. The person seeking consent must have sufficient knowledge of the test procedure to provide any information the patient may require. Further specific consent must be sought if surplus body fluid might be used for any other purpose, such as research or laboratory quality control.

Expanded guidance on safety measures includes a range of risk minimisation procedures relevant to the requirements of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1999. A paragraph on the segregation, storage, transport and treatment of clinical waste has been greatly expanded to take account of waste disposal legislation. It explains how waste is categorised according to the main hazard it presents, with body fluids in one group, syringes and sharps in a second group, and urine and urine containers in another group. For each group, the guidance explains the requirements affecting packaging, storage, labelling, transport and disposal.

A revised paragraph on the disclosure of test results makes it clear that the results must be in writing and given only to the patient or to an agent who has the patient's written authorisation. Counselling on the

results, implications and limitations of the test is now a general requirement rather than being needed only when the results are not within the desirable range. Those providing information and counselling must be trained in these skills.

The guidance repeats previous advice that test results should where appropriate be copied to the patient's general practitioner with the patient's permission. But it now adds that patients who withhold permission should be advised to seek medical advice as appropriate, taking the results with them.

The guidance can be downloaded as a six-page PDF file from the practice section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org.uk/practice). Pharmacists without access to the internet can obtain copies of the revised guidance from Lorraine Fearon, Practice Division, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2409; e-mail lfearon@rpsgb.org.uk).

The guidance on the testing of body fluids is one of a number of guidance documents currently being revised by the Society's practice division. Most of the revisions have now been published, but revised guidance on cholesterol testing and on dealing with clinical trials is still to come.

Society invites applications to serve on panel of fellows

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is for the first time inviting applications to fill a vacancy on its panel of fellows. Vacancies on the six-strong team have previously been filled by direct nomination by the Council but the appointment procedure has now been changed to allow open competition, in the interest of transparency and best practice.

The role of the panel of fellows is to confer fellowship on established members of the Society who are considered to have attained distinction in pharmacy. The panel meets twice a year, in May and November, to assess fellowship nominations.

Applicants for membership of the panel will be expected to have a broad knowledge of the Society and its membership and an ability to assess objectively the qualities of those who are nominated for fellowship.

Panel members must themselves be fellows of at least six years' standing and must still be active in the profession. Panel membership is not open to Council members or to former Council members who have served on the Council, or even stood for election, within the past six years.

The new panel member will be appointed by the Council on the recom-

mendation of the Secretary and Registrar, who in turn is advised by an appointments panel. In giving its advice, the appointments panel takes into account the need for the composition of the panel of fellows to reflect the diversity of the profession as far as is possible.

An Official Notice inviting applications appears on p419. The closing date is 11 April. Enquiries should be addressed to the secretary of the panel of fellows, Roger Odd, who can be contacted through Annette Dunn at the Society (tel 020 7572 2203; e-mail adunn@rpsgb.org.uk).

Royal attention for museum “flying boxes”

Objects from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society’s museum collection attracted royal attention on 11 March when the museum’s travelling display cases formed part of an exhibition for a visit by the Duke of York to the Royal Free Hospital in North London.

The museum’s “flying boxes” hold pharmacy items from the 19th and early 20th centuries. One case is themed around the art of Victorian dispensing and includes a pill mortar, pill machine, pill rounders and silverers, powder folders and suppository moulds. The other case, focusing on the sick room, has a Victorian ceramic inhaler, a group of medicine and poison bottles, rectal ointment introducers and a range of familiar 19th and early 20th century medicines.

The duke visited the Royal Free on 11 March, when he officially opened a robotic dispenser in the hospital’s outpatient pharmacy (*PJ*, 15 March, p359). The opening was one of a number of events marking the 175th anniversary of the hospital.

The origins of the hospital can be traced to 13 March 1832, when a young surgeon, William Marsden, met 27 of his friends in a coffee house to discuss a project for providing free health care for London’s poor. Just seven weeks later the London General Institution for the Gratuitous Cure of Malignant Diseases opened. It changed its name to the Royal Free Hospital when Queen Victoria agreed to become its patron in 1837. The hospital’s present Hampstead building was completed in 1974 and officially opened by the Queen in 1978, 150 years after Marsden’s coffee morning.

The Society’s museum is also taking part in the hospital’s 175th birthday event on 17 April when the hospital’s atrium will be full of displays and activities to mark the anniversary. The museum will mount a display and video demonstration of historical pharmacy techniques, and museum staff will encourage visitors to try their hand at pill rolling.



The Duke of York listens as the Society’s Secretary and Registrar, Ann Lewis, explains the contents of the museum display cases

Travelling display cases available to borrow

The museum’s travelling display cases can be borrowed singly or as a pair for display at sites such as community pharmacies, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, local museums, libraries, schools and other education centres. Each case consists of a clear Perspex display unit on a waist-high plinth. The objects are permanently secured to the base of the sealed unit. For transit, the plinth becomes a protective case. Packed for transit, the cases are 75cm x 60cm x 90cm high. Each weighs about 40kg.

The standard loan period is one month, but longer periods can sometimes

be arranged. Borrowers can collect the cases, or the museum can arrange delivery at cost. Loan attracts a small administration fee, and borrowers must meet certain conditions as regards security during use and transit.

Further information about the show-cases can be obtained from the Museum Office, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2210; fax 020 7572 2499; e-mail museum@rpsgb.org.uk). Information is also available from the museum section of the Society’s website (www.rpsgb.org.uk/museum).

Society appoints a records manager

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has appointed Susan Em as records manager in its Information Centre. Ms Em joins the Society from the Royal College of Physicians, where she was archivist and records manager.

Ms Em will be responsible for setting up processes and procedures to ensure the Society’s compliance with relevant legislation, notably data protection and freedom of information (FOI). She will also develop a Society-wide records management policy and implement a programme to support this.

Roy Allcorn, the Society’s head of information, said: “There is an increasing obliga-

tion on us to be compliant on a wide range of records management issues and so we need to have new policies and procedures in place. Our information management processes need to be transparent, effective and applied robustly across the whole organisation.

“One key objective of this project is to set up various audit processes to look at existing procedures, especially regarding personal data, to develop retention/disposal schedules for records, to check incoming data request processes, and to start to prepare the information access schemes required under FOI.”

One pharmacist in five responds to CPD consultation

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society’s survey of pharmacists’ opinions on mandatory continuing professional development (CPD) has attracted a response from about one in five of those who were sent a survey form.

The Society’s CPD implementation committee sought pharmacists’ views through a survey form distributed with the 15 February issue of *The Pharmaceutical Journal*. The form went to all members with registered addresses in Britain. By the closing date, 17 March, the number of responses exceeded 8,000.

The main initial findings of the consultation will be considered by the implementation committee on 24 March. The committee will then be in an informed position to advise the Council at its meeting on 1 and 2 April. The responses are to be summarised in an article in *The Journal* on 29 March.

Community Pharmacists Group election off

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society’s Community Pharmacists Group has cancelled its committee election because of a shortage of candidates. By the 14 March closing date, only four members had been nominated to fill the seven vacant places. Under the group’s constitution, these four

are deemed elected and the remaining three places will be filled by co-option. The committee will put forward to the Council names of group members for co-option to the committee. The co-opted members will hold office for three years until the next election.

An Official Notice appears on p419.

Cloney On 11 January, Harry Cloney, of 98 St George's Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2DL. Mr Cloney registered in 1927 and retired from the register in 1974 (see Tribute, Column 3).

Evelyn On 20 January, Michael Llewellyn Evelyn, MRPharmS, of 225 Colchester Road, Ipswich IP4 4SJ. Mr Evelyn registered in 1961.

Flory On 4 January, Reid Flory, MRPharmS, of 37 Duke Street, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 5DT. Mr Flory registered in 1948.

Holmes On 22 January, James Robert Holmes, MRPharmS, of "The Cottage", Howe Lane, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 0HA. Mr Holmes registered in 1935.

Hurst On 31 January, Leslie Hurst, MRPharmS, of 9 Dene Road, Tynemouth, North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE30 2JW. Mr Hurst registered in 1935.

Johnson On 13 January, Theodore Thomas Ross Johnson, MRPharmS, of Rockcliffe House, Links Place, Elie, Leven, Fife KY9 1ER. Mr Johnson registered in 1960.

Latimer On 28 January, Donald Edward Latimer, FRPharmS, of 59 Roecliffe Road, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough LE12 8TN. Mr Latimer registered in 1936 and was designated a fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in 1954. His first post was as one of six pharmacists working at Savory & Moore in New Cavendish Street, London. During this time he also worked on Saturday nights at Pritchard & Constance in the Haymarket. After one year he was transferred to Savory & Moore in Wall Street, Birmingham, and later to Wallis and then to Southalls in Birmingham. At the beginning of the 1939–41 war he joined the Royal Navy and worked at Chatham Naval Hospital where he became chief pharmacist. After the war he returned to Loughborough where his father owned a community pharmacy. He joined his father as a partner in the family business at 24 Market Place, where he worked until his retirement.

Levi On 18 January, Stanley David Levi, FRPharmS, of 10 Wincham Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 4PL. Mr Levi registered in 1952. Mr Levi was head of biological sciences at Salford college of technology from 1958 to 1966 and at North Trafford college from 1968 to 1981. He retired in 1981 after a teaching career of 26 years.

McShane On 18 January, John McShane, MRPharmS, of 4 Murray Terrace, Octavia Street, Kirkcaldy KY2 5HJ. Mr McShane registered in 1977.

Marshall On 11 January, James Alexander Marshall, of "Moorcroft", 34 Carter Avenue, Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 7LG.

Mr Marshall registered in 1947 and retired from the register in 1997.

Mohammed-Ali On 16 December 2002, Sabah Abd-Arrazzk Mohammed-Ali, MRPharmS, of 19 Clarendon Gardens, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 7QW. Mr Mohammed-Ali registered in 1992.

Munro On 13 January, Julia Anne Miller Munro, née Aitkenhead, MRPharmS, of Warrack House, Warrack Terrace, Montrose, Angus DD10 8RX. Mrs Munro registered in 1969.

Phillips On 24 January, Barbara Clare Phillips, née McMurray, MRPharmS, of "Firbank", 1 Rectory Close, Farmborough, Bath, Avon. Mrs Phillips registered in 1951.

Scott On 15 February, James Hunter Scott, MRPharmS, of 12 Craigs Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 8HR. Mr Scott registered in 1931.

Shrimpton On 3 February, Dennis Frank Shrimpton, MRPharmS, of 15 Sorrento Court, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9HB. Mr Shrimpton registered in 1935.

Smart On 12 January, William James Riach Smart, MRPharmS, of 31 Denoon Terrace, Dundee, Angus DD2 2EL. Mr Smart registered in 1940.

Smith On 15 January, Leonard Charles Bryan Smith, MRPharmS, of Lee Cottage, Slade Lane, Mobberley, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 7QP. Mr Smith registered in 1957.

Wellington On 4 January, Eric Franklin Wellington, of 85 Thingwall Park, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 2AL. Mr Wellington registered in 1941 and retired from the register in 2002. He spent 35 years working in the hospital service in Bristol before retiring in 1985.

Wells On 21 January, Robert Alexander Wells, MRPharmS, of 23 Clover Court, Calverley, Pudsey, West Yorkshire LS28 5SY. Mr Wells registered in 1944.

Willerton On 16 January, Henry Jesse Willerton, of 94 Spring Lane, Whittington, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9NA. Mr Willerton registered in 1936 and retired from the register in 2002.

Williamson On 17 February, Reginald Joseph Williamson, MRPharmS, of 21 Sandore Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 3PZ. Mr Williamson registered in 1942.

Yates On 4 January, John Brian Yates, MRPharmS, of 22 Porchfield Square, St Johns Gardens, Manchester M3 4FG. Mr Yates registered in 1949.

Yeadon On 31 December 2002, John Christopher Yeadon, MRPharmS, of 87 St Annes Road, Leeds LS6 3NZ. Mr Yeadon registered in 1958.

Cloney In a tribute to the late Harry Cloney (see Column 1), WILLIAM G. PEBERDY writes: Harry Cloney was born and spent his early life in the Banbury area where he was later apprenticed to Goodman & Son. After qualifying from Westminster College of Pharmacy he worked initially in the Plough Court Pharmacy of Allen & Hanbury before joining Parke-Davis in 1929 as a medical representative. His territory was in the north-east and centred in Newcastle upon Tyne, which was to be his home for the rest of his life. It will be in this work that his many friends both in pharmacy and in medicine will remember him.

He volunteered for service early in the war, working in armament maintenance in the Royal Air Force and rising to the rank of sergeant. Returning to Parke-Davis after the war he soon became a regional sales representative in northern England. It was here that I met him as one of his representatives in 1952, and when he retired in the late 1960s I succeeded him as manager.

He will be remembered as a quintessential representative of the old school, ferociously honest and loyal both to his employers and to his representatives. He was always immaculately turned out, typified by his Anthony Eden hat whose main purpose was that it could be taken off with a suitable gesture at appropriate times. In moments of contemplation he would polish its brim vigorously on his sleeve.

His knowledge of his products was encyclopaedic and was supported by a vast folder of papers from journals which he always carried and to which he could refer at length. He looked and sounded so impressively confident that many doctors regarded him with some awe. Of his representatives he expected standards no lower than his own but behind his formidable facade lurked a kindly and caring man to whom the wellbeing of his team was of paramount importance.

In private life he enjoyed fly-fishing, gardening and music. He was an accomplished violinist. His knowledge of classical literature and poetry was profound and in a philosophical moment he could always find an appropriate quote from Shakespeare.

His first wife, Helen, died shortly after his retirement. He subsequently remarried but his second wife also died several years ago. He leaves two daughters (one of whom qualified in pharmacy in England and later in medicine in Sweden), five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

With his death there passes a pharmacist of the traditional school, a true gentleman in every respect. Although he never became involved in pharmaceutical or public affairs he will be remembered by the many who appreciated the sterling qualities by which he merited this description. His friends will feel the poorer for his loss.

Deer In a tribute to the late John James Deer (*PJ*, 8 March, p348), Dr NEVILLE CARRINGTON writes: I first met Jack Deer in 1952 when I opted for pharmaceutical

engineering science in the final year of my BPharm course at Bloomsbury Square. Jack had joined the staff at the School of Pharmacy in about 1950, and had used his previous wide engineering experience to equip the new laboratory for this course.

Jack's talents were invaluable in planning, installing and equipping the laboratories in the new "Square" building in Brunswick Square. He rapidly established a reputation for applying his wide knowledge and ingenuity to the design and manufacture of research instruments and many were greatly helped by his input to their equipment. I personally was privileged with Jack's supervision to be allowed to use his workshop when I started my PhD in 1956. Subsequently he ran a workshop course for students.

While still at the school Jack was very much involved in tablet research. He had a consultancy agreement with a well known tablet machine manufacturer. In due course Jack developed a special interest in controlled stress rheometry and, in co-operation with Professor Shotton and his team, he designed and built the first controlled stress rheometer of modern times. He wrote many papers on this topic and had the respect of many of the leading rheologists in the world, whom he knew personally. After his retirement in 1978, Jack became involved in the further development of controlled stress rheometry and the popularisation of this technique, which has since become the standard for most industrial rheology work on non-Newtonian fluids.

Jack was a keen racing cyclist and was physically and mentally active right through his 90th year, until he had the minor accident that precipitated his demise. He will be remembered by all who knew him for his ingenuity, boundless energy and his willingness to help everyone.

Our sympathy goes to his wife Rosalie, who always gave him so much support.

Communications to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain should be addressed, except where otherwise stated, to the Secretary and Registrar, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7735 9141; fax 020 7735 7629). Official Notices also appear in the Notice-Board section of PJ Online (www.pjanline.com/notices)

Scottish Department Executive election
Notice is hereby given to members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society resident in Scotland that the annual election for members of the Executive of the Scottish Department will be held in June. The retiring members are Mrs Dot Anderson, Mr George Downie, Mr David Forbes, Dr Steven Kayne, Mrs Fiona McMillan and Miss Alison Strath, all of whom are eligible for re-election.

Nominations for candidates for the 2003 election are now invited, the closing date for receipt of nominations being Friday 11 April 2003. Nominations require the signatures of a proposer, a seconder and the nominee, together with their printed names, full addresses and registration numbers. Biographical notes of the nominee, not exceeding 80 words, should also be addressed to the Secretary of the Scottish Department, 36 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3HU.

Dr SHEILA M. STEVENS
Secretary, Scottish Department

Cancellation of Community Pharmacists Group election

Under the constitution of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Community Pharmacists Group, in order for an election to take place, more than seven candidates should be put forward for nomination. Since only four candidates were nominated by the closing

date of 14 March 2003, the Community Pharmacists Group Committee election has been cancelled.

The members of the Committee will now put forward to the Council, names of appropriate Community Pharmacy Group members for co-option to the committee. The co-opted members will hold office for a three-year period until the next election.

ANN HARRINGTON
Secretary to the
Community Pharmacists' Group

Panel of fellows

Applications are invited from fellows of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society to serve as members of the panel of fellows.

The panel consists of six fellows (one of whom is designated as chairman of the panel by the Council), none of whom is a member of the Society's Council.

Candidates for membership of the panel must have been fellows for a period of six years and, if formerly a member of Council, will not have been or have stood for membership of the Council for a period of six years. Members of the panel must still be active in the profession.

The composition of the panel membership should reflect the different interests, aspects and structure of the Society and its individual members, the spectrum of academia, industry, hospital and community practice, as well as the regional interest and make-up of the membership on the register.

Panel members are appointed annually by the Council on recommendation from the Secretary and Registrar, who is advised by an appointments panel.

The principal characteristics for a member of the panel of fellows should be based on a wide knowledge of the Society and its membership and an ability to make an objective assessment of distinction and leadership in pharmacy and pharmaceutical care among candidates put forward for consideration.

Application forms and further details are available from the Secretary to the Panel of Fellows at the Society's headquarters (tel 020 7572 2203; fax 020 7572 2500; e-mail adunn@rpsgb.org.uk). The closing date for applications is 11 April.

Erasures from Register on direction of Statutory Committee

The name of the following person was erased from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists on 11 March 2003 following the direction of the Statutory Committee at its meeting on 11 December 2002: Bhopinder Singh Bharj (registration number 72660) of 227 Dewsbury Road, Leeds.

The name of the following person was erased from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists on 12 March 2003 following the direction of the Statutory Committee at its meeting on 12 December 2002: Lesley Christine Davison (registration number 69024), of Earsdon Moor House, Earsdon, Morpeth, Northumberland.

ANN LEWIS
Secretary and Registrar

THE MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

The museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society maintains important collections representing the history, science and practice of pharmacy and the development of pharmacy as a profession in Britain. Since the museum's establishment in 1842, the collections have grown to about 45,000 items.

Representative items from the museum collections are displayed in showcases in selected parts of the Society's headquarters building. Members and their guests can access these displays.

The collections also form an invaluable resource for researchers. They include:

- A fine collection of English pharmaceutical delftware
- Other ceramic items, including feeders, leech jars, advertising models and pot lids
- An extensive collection of mortars, including outstanding examples of bell-metal mortars bequeathed from the collection of the late Edward Saville Peck
- Pharmaceutical glassware, silver, pewter

and treen used for storage, dispensing and display

- Instruments used for weighing and measuring in pharmacy
- Prints, paintings, photographs and ephemera illustrating a variety of pharmaceutical and medical subjects
- Parts of the reference collection of materia medica for which the collection was originally formed in 1842
- Many proprietary and trade name medicines, the earliest from the 1700s

Most of the items in the collections are kept off-site, safely stored for future generations. However, the museum's plans for the future focus on developing the collection's potential as a resource for learning, for schoolchildren, university students, community groups and web-users and through loans to other museums.

Further information on the museum and its services can be obtained from the museum office (tel 020 7572 2210; e-mail museum@rpsgb.org.uk).

HEADQUARTERS MEETINGS

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

Tuesday 25 March
Audit Committee 10am

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/noticesboard)

Monday 24 March

Crawley, Horsham and Reigate "Deregulation of pharmacies: what will it mean to you?" (debate) led by Alastair Buxton and Dilip Joshi (Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee). Lecture Theatre, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Crawley Hospital. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Tuesday 25 March

Barnet "The future of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society" by Christine Glover (member of the Society's Council). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Barnet General Hospital. Food available from 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Croydon "(3) Child's health: drugs in the perinatal period" by Professor Paul Nicholls. Postgraduate Medical Centre, Mayday Hospital. 8pm.

Durham "I have made an error: will I be struck off?" by Mark Koziol. University of North Durham Hospital, Postgraduate Education Centre. 8pm.

Harrow and Hillingdon "Fit for the future: the modernisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society" by Christine Gray (modernisation programme manager, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Cumberland Hotel, Harrow. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Northamptonshire "Above the British National Formulary [ie, high dose prescribing] in psychiatric intensive care units and in the community" by Dr B. Timmins (consultant psychiatrist, Princess Marina Hospital), followed by annual general meeting. Merry Comrades Suite, Northampton General Hospital. Food available 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

South Cheshire "New ways of working" (two presentations on local initiatives). Fourways Inn, Oakmere, Northwich. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 26 March

Buckinghamshire Presentation by John D'Arcy (chief executive, National Pharmaceutical Association). Holiday Inn, Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury. Hot buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm. Joint meeting with local pharmaceutical committee.

Sunderland "Erectile dysfunction". Buffet. Quality Hotel, Boldon. 7.30pm.

Teesside "Errors and risk management" by Mark Koziol and David Anderson. Yarm

Suite, Parkmore Hotel, 636 Yarm Road, Eaglescliffe. Buffet. 7.30 for 8pm.

Thursday 27 March

Birmingham "Palliative care" by Christine Hirsch (Aston University) followed by annual general meeting. Birmingham Medical Institute, 36 Harborne Road, Edgbaston. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

Dudley and Stourbridge "Parkinson's disease" by Dr Roland Etti (consultant neurologist, Dudley Group of Hospitals). Medical Services Centre, Corbett Hospital. 7.45 for 8pm.

Hull "Southern African classic car rally: motors, medicines and memories" by Dr Bob Mark. Postgraduate Education Centre, Hull Royal Infirmary, Hull. 7.30 for 8pm. Joint meeting with Hull Medical Society.

Weald of Kent "Sexual health" by Dr Janine Cooke (lead doctor for family planning and sexual health, South West Kent Primary Care Trust). Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, 8 Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Kent. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Sunday 30 March

Mersey region Regional conference: "Want to call yourself a pharmacist?". Novotel Preston. 10.30am to 1pm. Joint meeting with North Western region. (See Society Meetings, Column 3).

North Western region See Mersey region.

Monday 31 March

Sheffield "Medication errors" by Professor David Cousins (National Patient Safety Agency). Charnwood Hotel, 10 Sharrow Lane. Light buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Unless otherwise stated, further details of meetings organised by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society can be obtained from the Society at 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7735 9141; fax 020 7735 7629).

Mersey and North Western region meeting on CPD

The Mersey and North Western regions of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society are to hold a joint half-day meeting on mandatory continuing professional development (CPD) on Sunday 30 March in Preston.

Entitled "Want to call yourself a pharmacist?", the meeting will run from 10.30am to 1pm, preceded by breakfast from 10am.

The venue is the Novotel, Reedfield Place, Walton Summit, Preston (near the M6 at Junction 29).

Presentations will be given by Claire Grout (Greater Manchester Workforce Confederation), Alison Ewing (a member of the Society's Council and chairman of its Education Committee) and Allan Melzack (Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education tutor).

Practical computer-based demonstrations will be available.

There is no charge for attendance, but places are limited and must be booked in advance (preferably by e-mail) with the North Western Regional Secretary, Ross Groves, October Cottage, 156 Chapel Road, Hesketh Bank, Lancashire PR4 6RY (e-mail RLGPharm@aol.com; fax/answerphone 01772 816367).