

The Society

— PRACTICE GUIDANCE: CHOLESTEROL TESTING	909	— NEW FINANCE AND RESOURCES DIRECTOR	910
— PRACTICE GUIDANCE: CARE HOMES	909	— SUPPORT FOR BPC FIRST-TIMERS	910
— WELSH AGM	909	— LAW AND ETHICS BULLETIN	910
— WELSH EXECUTIVE WEBSITE	909	— SCOTTISH AGM	911
— BRIEFING PAPER: MINOR AILMENTS	910	— SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ELECTION	911
— NHS TRAINING FOR ONLINE BNF	910	— OFFICIAL NOTICES; SOCIETY MEETINGS; DIARY	912

Expanded guidance on cholesterol testing

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's practice division has published a revised and greatly expanded version of its practice guidance on cholesterol testing by community pharmacists. The new guidance provides much more information on setting up the service than the previous version. It includes an appendix giving an updated list of apparatus available for testing.

The document also gives updated background information explaining the need for testing in pharmacies. It says that there are two reasons for providing such a service. One is as a monitoring service as part of providing pharmaceutical care to patients with established coronary heart disease (CHD); the other is to measure cholesterol

as part of a CHD risk assessment process in patients with no disease symptoms. By raising awareness, improving detection, monitoring and treatment, pharmacists can make a significant impact on health.

The guidance also examines the role of cholesterol testing in the context of national disease prevention and management strategies. Practical aspects of testing are assessed as well as the results and referral process.

The Society's head of practice, Nigel Graham, said: "Community pharmacists have the clinical skills to provide services such as healthy lifestyle advice and cholesterol monitoring. Their services are easily accessible to the public and in many instances are available without appoint-

ment. Community pharmacists have an important role in helping to identify patients at risk of CHD by primary prevention in conjunction with local GP surgeries."

The guidance is a major revision of former guidance found in 'Medicines ethics and practice: a guide for pharmacists' (July 2002). It can be downloaded as a 32-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).

Society's new guidance on medicines in care homes

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has published a new booklet giving revised and updated guidance for those involved with the administration and control of medicines in care homes and children's homes.

The 26-page, A4-size publication, entitled "The administration and control of medicines in care homes and children's

homes", updates and replaces guidance published two years ago (*PJ*, 25 August 2001, p278).

The new publication takes into account the establishment of national social care councils for England, Wales and Scotland and their introduction of regulations setting out national minimum care standards.

The booklet can be downloaded as a PDF file from the practice section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org.uk/practice). Printed copies will shortly be available, at a cost of £6, 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).

Welsh AGM to consider motion on new Charter

The annual general meeting of members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society resident in Wales is to consider a motion calling for the Society's Charter to give the Welsh Executive explicit powers to make policy for pharmaceutical and health matters in Wales.

The motion says that the Charter needs amending to take account of devolution, and in particular NHS (Cymru) Wales and health and social services policy of the National Assembly of Wales.

The motion is to be moved by Christina Lowe, of Swansea, and seconded by Paul Gimson, of Cardiff.

The agenda for the meeting also includes a presentation on the legal and illegal uses of cannabis, given by Dr Elizabeth Williamson, senior lecturer, pharmacognosy, School of Pharmacy, University of London, and Detective Superintendent Jackie Roberts, South Wales Police.

The AGM takes place in Cardiff on the evening of 9 July.

Official Notice, p912

New website launched by Welsh Executive

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Welsh Executive has launched a new website to help inform pharmacists about the executive's activities and to provide a resource for information about the development of health policy in Wales and its effect on pharmacy practice. The website can be accessed at www.rpsgb.org.uk/wales.

The secretary of the Welsh Executive, Cath O'Brien, said the website is an important part of the executive's agenda to help keep pharmacists informed about issues that impact on pharmacy practice in Wales. "The Welsh Executive is working very hard to build the profession's profile and influence with a wide political, professional and public audience in Wales. The new website will help keep pharmacists up to date with progress."

Pharmacists who have views and suggestions on the content of the site are asked to e-mail them to Ms O'Brien at cobrien@rpsgb.org.uk.

Briefing paper discusses pharmacists' role in managing minor ailments

A briefing paper has been launched by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society to highlight pharmacists' role in managing minor ailments and easing pressure on general practitioners and the wider National Health Service.

The paper, launched on 25 June during the NHS Confederation Conference in Glasgow, is to be distributed to primary care trusts and key health bodies. It focuses on schemes offering alternative ways of dealing with minor ailments, which it says account for up to 150 million GP consultations a year. It estimates that each GP's workload could be reduced by up to 16 consultations a day if self-medication were encouraged for certain minor ailments.

Dr David Colin-Thomé, National Clinical Director for Primary Care at the Department of Health, is supporting the briefing. In a foreword to the document he

says that most GPs spend a significant proportion of their working day dealing with minor ailments. For many patients, this is an inconvenient and inefficient way of getting help to look after themselves. For health professionals, it can be a distraction from tasks that really need a medical input.

"Pharmacists have an important role to play in providing alternative support for such patients in a convenient and accessible manner from their local community pharmacy. There are now more than a dozen successful schemes around the country which enable this to happen, safely and with little extra administrative burden."

The Society's Director of Public Affairs, Beverley Parkin, said: "This briefing is the latest in a series of initiatives by the Society to ensure that pharmacists' full contribution to health care is understood by NHS decision-makers."

New finance and resources director

A new director of finance and resources, Bernard Kelly, is to join the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's executive team on 28 July.

Since January 2000 Mr Kelly has been director of finance and operations with the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA). He had previously spent 17 years with the Thorn EMI group, progressing to become deputy finance director for EMI Music Worldwide, followed by seven years with CIC International as chief financial officer and executive vice-president and three years with MTV Europe as chief financial officer.



Bernard Kelly

Mr Kelly succeeds Hugh Mitchell, who was appointed as director of resources on an interim basis following the departure from the Society of Denis Argent in May 2001 after 14 years in the post.

Commenting on Mr Kelly's appointment, the Society's Secretary and Registrar, Ann Lewis, said that he would bring a great deal of knowledge and experience from a career marked by significant involvement in change.

Society helps NHS get the best from BNF

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is taking part in a series of workshops to help NHS knowledge managers, librarians and other health information professionals to get the best out of digital versions of the British National Formulary.

The workshops, to be held in eight locations around Britain, are being organised by

the National Electronic Library for Health (NeLH). They are aimed at users of the BNF on the internet (BNF.org) as well as staff of hospitals and trusts that have mounted the BNF on their intranets.

The Society's training representatives are from the Pharmaceutical Press and the Information Centre.

Branches take up offer of BPC support

Branches of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society all over Britain have applied for a share of funding that will support more than 30 representatives attending the 2003 British Pharmaceutical Conference as first-time delegates.

The applications are the result of the new method of funding the branch network being piloted in 2003. This has allowed all branches to apply for funding of up to £250 to help towards expenses associated with attending the BPC, which takes place in Harrogate from 15 to 17 September.

About 30 branches have so far applied for funding. Other branch committees wishing to apply should contact the Society's membership unit (e-mail b&ra@rpsgb.org.uk).

The chairman of the Society's Conference Committee, Wally Dove, said: "The BPC is the place to come to learn about the latest innovations in the world of pharmaceutical practice and science and to network with colleagues from around the country. The programme for 2003 is arguably our best yet and I look forward to welcoming first-time delegates from our branches to Harrogate in September."

A summary of the conference programme appeared in *The Journal* last week (pp867-69).

LAW AND ETHICS BULLETIN

An occasional feature, prepared in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Professional Standards Directorate, to highlight problems and inquiries currently being handled. Previous bulletin items can be found on PJ Online at www.pjonline.com/lawandethics

Changes to Misuse of Drugs Regulations

Pharmacists are alerted to the fact that on 1 July 2003 certain drugs will be brought under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 for the first time.

From July 1 2003 remifentanyl and dihydroetorphine will be added to Schedule 2 of the Regulations. This means that from that date these drugs will require prescriptions in the doctor's own handwriting detailing the full prescription requirements for Controlled Drugs. Register entries will have to be made for all receipts and supplies. Each drug will require its own section in the CD register, or, if no such section is available, pharmacists should use a blank section suitably headed for the drug being recorded. Both drugs will be subject to safe custody requirements. As with all Schedule 2 drugs, any destruction of stock will require the attendance of an authorised witness.

Private nursing homes, private hospices and acute independent hospitals will require a Home Office licence to keep stocks of these drugs from 1 July onwards. Pharmacists asked to supply such establishments must check that the relevant licences are held before any supply is made.

Two other drugs — zolpidem and 4-hydroxy-n-butyric acid, or gamma-hydroxy-butyrate (GHB) — are to be added to Schedule 4 of Part I of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 and will therefore be subject to the same controls as benzodiazepines such as diazepam.

In addition, 4-androstene-3,17-dione, 19-nor-4-androstene-3,17-dione, 5-androstene-3,17-diol and 19-nor-5-androstene-3,17-diol will be added to Schedule 4 Part II of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 and will be subject to the same controls as anabolic steroids.

SCOTTISH DEPARTMENT

AGM demands that new Charter takes account of devolution in Scotland

The annual general meeting of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Scottish Department has unanimously carried a motion calling for any new Charter for the Society to empower its Scottish Executive to make policy for Scottish pharmaceutical and health matters. The meeting took place in Edinburgh on 18 June.

Introducing the motion, the CHAIRMAN of the Scottish Executive, David Thomson, told the meeting that major implications for the membership in Scotland made it important to engage strongly in the debate on modernisation. He welcomed the motion because it offered a useful opportunity to contribute to the consultation process.

The motion, proposed by MAURICE HICKEY (Moray and Banff branch) stated: "It is the opinion of the members of the Scottish Department that the new Charter of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain must take account of devolution, and in particular NHS Scotland. The Scottish members require that their elected Scottish Executive should be allowed the powers to make policy for Scottish pharmaceutical and health matters. The Scottish members require that these changes should be explicitly written into any new or amended Charter."

Mr Hickey described the published draft new Charter as "disappointing" for pharmacists in Scotland. Concern about it had been expressed at meetings the length and breadth of the country.

Mr Hickey said that the health administration in Scotland was developing in a clearly different way from the other constituent UK countries and this had to be acknowledged by the Society's Council in any new or amended Charter. "It has



Members voting on the AGM motion

become clear that the Scottish Parliament is seeking Scottish solutions to Scottish problems, and so should we," he said.

The profession in Scotland should have a proactive Scottish Department that was able to negotiate positively and build a new and vibrant future, Mr Hickey said. To this end the motion sought to ensure that the Scottish Executive was empowered to develop policy in relation to devolved health matters. He wanted to see an explicit statement in the Charter guaranteeing the existence of a Scottish Department. The proposals in the draft charter were simply not strong enough.

Seconding the motion, FRANK OWENS (Stirling and Central Scotland branch) said that he wanted to see an exciting and rewarding future for all pharmacists living and practising in Scotland. The profession needed to respond quickly and positively to opportunities offered by NHS Scotland in a modern world. Health care delivery was developing differently across the UK. The Scottish Executive needed far

greater autonomy to communicate effectively at all levels of health care debate, whether it was with patient groups, with members of the Health Committee at the Scottish Parliament or with officials at the Scottish Executive Health Department.

DOT ANDERSON (Edinburgh and Lothians branch) gave examples of local policy differences that were already happening: The Scottish White Paper, "Partnership for care", published in February, advocated the abolition of trusts and the creation of single system working.

Mrs Anderson said that in her own health board area plans were being drawn up to agree a "statute of delegation" that would underpin the new roles, responsibilities and accountabilities adopted by all health professionals as they redesigned patient care around the patients. "I anticipate that there will be implications for professional pharmacy standards as changes in practice are agreed and implemented," Mrs Anderson said.

The motion was then carried.

Maurice Hickey co-opted to serve on Scottish Executive

Maurice Hickey, a community pharmacy contractor in Forres, Morayshire, has been co-opted to fill a vacancy on the Scottish Executive of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

The vacancy has arisen from the election of executive member Noel Wicks to serve on the Society's Council, in which position he automatically becomes an ex-officio member of the executive.

The executive made its co-option decision at a meeting on 18 June after the result of this year's executive election had been declared at the Scottish Department annual general meeting earlier in the day. Mr Hickey was one of two unsuccessful candidates in the election, which saw the return of all six retiring members — Dot Anderson, George Downie, David Forbes, Dr Steven Kayne, Fiona McMillan and Alison Strath (see Official Notice, p912). Mr Hickey was also an unsuccessful candidate in the Council election.

Also at its 18 June meeting, the executive re-elected David Thomson as chairman and Angela Timoney as vice-chairman.

Census finds high proportion of women pharmacists in Scotland

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's recent workforce census shows that women make up a higher proportion of pharmacists in Scotland than in the rest of the United Kingdom, the annual general meeting of the Society's Scottish Department was told. The census found that about 62 per cent of pharmacists in Scotland are women, compared with 52 per cent in the UK generally.

Presenting some of the findings from the census, Dr Karen Hassell, senior research fellow and NHS primary care scientist at the School of Pharmacy, University of Manchester, said that there were few significant differences between the home countries. One other difference was a higher proportion of pharmacists in the under-30 age group in Scotland. A slightly higher proportion of respondents in Scotland said that they worked 49 hours or more per week.

Dr Hassell said that by determining the characteristics of the current workforce and employment patterns the census would have implications for future pharmacy practice.

Communications to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain should be addressed, unless 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.pjonline.com/notices)

Scottish Executive election result 2003

At the annual meeting of the Scottish Department of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society held on 18 June 2003, the result of the election for members of the Executive was as follows:

STRATH, Alison J.	838
KAYNE, Steven Dr	562
DOWNIE, George	558
FORBES, David	542
ANDERSON, Dot	537
McMILLAN, Fiona J.	533
HICKEY, Maurice	510
MALLINSON, Edward J. H.	491

The first six of the eight candidates listed above were declared elected. At the subsequent meeting of the Scottish Executive Mr Maurice Hickey was co-opted on to the Scottish Executive to fill the vacancy left by Mr Wicks's election to Council and who is now an ex-officio member.

The number of voting papers issued was 4,139; 1,090 were returned, of which 11 were invalid or incomplete.

SHEILA M. STEVENS (Dr)
Secretary,
Scottish Department

Wales annual general meeting

The 27th annual general meeting of members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society resident in Wales will be held at Aberdare Hall, University of Wales, Cardiff, on Wednesday 9 July 2003, from 7.30 to 8pm. Refreshments will be served from 6.30pm.

The annual lecture, entitled "Cannabis: the legal and illegal uses" follows at 8pm. The speakers are Dr Elizabeth Williamson, senior lecturer, pharmacognosy, School of Pharmacy, University of London, and Detective Superintendent Jackie Roberts, South Wales Police. There will be opportunity for questions and discussion following the lecture, and before the conclusion of the evening at 9.30pm.

The agenda will be as follows:

1. Results of the 2003 Welsh Executive election
2. Chairman's report
3. Motion — The following motion has been proposed by Christina Lowe (77246), of QA&C, Pharmacy Department, Singleton Hospital, Swansea, and seconded by Paul Gimson (87915), of 107 Diana Street, Roath, Cardiff:
"It is the opinion of this AGM that the new Charter of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain must take

account of devolution, and in particular NHS (Cymru) Wales and health and social services policy of the National Assembly of Wales.

"The members resident in Wales require that their elected Welsh Executive should be allowed the powers to establish policy for pharmaceutical and health matters in Wales.

"The members resident in Wales require that these powers should be explicitly written into any new or amended charter".

4. Any other business

CATHERINE O'BRIEN
Secretary,
Welsh Executive

SOCIETY MEETINGS

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).

Final Charter roadshow

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has been seeking pharmacists' views on the draft of a new Royal Charter at "Fit for the future" roadshows across Britain.

The final roadshow takes place in London, in the Society's assembly hall, on 30 June. It will start with registration and a light buffet at 7pm and finish at about 9.30pm.

Pharmacists wishing to attend the London roadshow should e-mail member-

shiptemp@rpsgb.org.uk or write to Esther Corcoran, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN.

DIARY

HEADQUARTERS MEETINGS

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

Monday 30 June	
Infringements Committee	1.30pm
Tuesday 1 July	
Science Committee	9am
Practice Committee	9.30am
Law and Ethics Committee	1.30am
Education Committee	1.30am

Wednesday 2 July	
Council strategic review day	9am

Thursday 3 July	
Council training day	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/diary)

Thursday 3 July
Huddersfield "New developments and controversies in the treatment of hyperlipidaemia" by Dr Huw Griffiths (director of pathology, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust). Lecture Theatre, Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.