

The Society

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

What the Society does for its members

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's consultation on a new Royal Charter has highlighted the importance of its role as a professional leadership and development body. The Society's President, Dr Gill Hawksworth, takes a look at what the Society delivers for its members in England and within Britain generally. Further articles will examine the Society's activities on behalf of its members in Scotland and Wales .

Over the past 18 months, there has been much debate on how the Society can best fulfil its role as a modern regulator. There has perhaps not been the same amount of opportunity to discuss the Society's activities that help promote pharmacy and develop the profession's future while building on its heritage.

Pharmacists know only too well the pressures that come from the relentless pace of change in today's health care arena. Keeping up with new developments, challenges and demands means that, all too often, health professionals have little time for reflection on the outcomes of their effort and activity before it is time to move on to the next pressing priority.

The pace of this change facing pharmacists is, naturally enough, reflected in the work being undertaken by the Society. The sheer volume and range of this work create a significant communications challenge. It is important to help members maintain an overview of the Society's work in this area and its real positive impact on their working lives. In order to reassure members that the Society has been investing significant resources in membership, representational and professional leadership and development activities, I reflected on some valuable areas of work being undertaken at the Society.

I asked a cross-section of the Society's staff working in various areas of policy implementation to highlight some of the work that they believe has been most influential or important in this context. Here are some key points from their many responses.

INFLUENCING GOVERNMENT AND NHS POLICY

The pharmacy plans In 1995 the Society embarked on its future planning programme "Pharmacy in a new age", in which it set out its vision for the future of pharmacy practice. It expressed the need for a more integrated and wider role for pharmacists, it introduced the concept of medicines man-

agement and, of course, it raised the issue of pharmacist prescribing.

In 2000, the Government produced its strategy for pharmacy in England, "Pharmacy in the future", which took forward the key elements of the Society's ideas. Only last month, a follow-up document, "A vision for pharmacy in the new NHS", set out the progress made and signalled future priorities.

Many of the programmes of work being taken forward by the Department of Health in England build on original work by the Society that has been adopted as the part of the Government's agenda. Still more programmes of work to further the role of pharmacists are being developed and implemented with the Society's continuing input and involvement.

Devolution In Scotland and Wales, pharmacy plans have been published that also reflect the Society's vision for the profession, while being based on the different approaches in those countries. The Society is working to meet the challenges of devolution through inputs to those countries' policy planning and implementation. The Society works through its executives in Scotland and Wales to ensure that the profession's voice is heard on all key issues.

Developing the evidence and policy base The Society has recognised and invested in research to take the profession forward. The Society is able to influence research policy through its places on committees at the Department of Health and the Medical Research Council. The Society systematically scrutinises national health and social care policy so that the profession's policy can be framed and promoted to best effect.



The President: the Society's work has a positive impact on members' working lives

National service frameworks The Society was concerned that the original development process for national service frameworks did not include pharmacy input. Successful lobbying by the Society has led recently to key roles for pharmacy and medicines management in the Children's NSF and the Renal NSF. Now, a medicines management module is being developed by the Department of Health to deal with medicines management issues wherever they arise in NSFs.

Public affairs In 1999, the Society established a public affairs function to develop its role as an advocate for the profession with those who influence and make political decisions. The Society now has a profile as a credible, authoritative voice with ministers, parliamentarians, officials, advisers and think tanks. The Society has lobbied on individual issues arising out of legislation, it has made representations to select committees in both Houses of Parliament and it maintains an ongoing contact and briefing programme with parliamentarians of all parties. The Society helped found and supports Parliament's All-Party Pharmacy Group, which has proved an effective platform for pharmacy matters in the Palace of Westminster.

The Society has invested in ensuring that pharmacy's voice is heard in the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales. The Society has built sound working relationships with the Scottish Parliament and Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government. Health care in these countries is developing according to differing priorities and plans and the Society's executives in Scotland and Wales ensure that the profession is involved in this development.

Every year, the Society is invited to respond to hundreds of consultation documents that ultimately affect the environment in which pharmacists practise.

The Society is undertaking a major lobby in Europe over the issue of the free movement of professionals and its potential impact on patient safety.

Over the past year, the Society has spoken for the profession with ministers, parliamentarians and their committees and groups, civil servants, Government agencies, other health professions, think tanks, the media and other commentators. Many of these issues are of relevance to the whole of Britain. Some of the more recent issues raised include:

- The Office of Fair Trading report on community pharmacy
- The need for a more effective community pharmacy contract
- The need for shared patient records
- The impact of workload on pharmacists and their morale
- Pharmacists' roles in creating a safe NHS
- Planning the pharmacy workforce and skill mix
- Pharmacists' role in the new NHS
- Medicines management, including prescribing and managing repeat medication
- Pharmacists supplying emergency hormonal contraception
- The importance of investment in clinical governance in community pharmacy
- The need for pharmacists to be connected to the NHSnet
- Skill mix and technician registration
- The need for patient packs
- The need for reform of drugs misuse regulations

This last campaign involved the Society lobbying both the Department of Health and the Home Office as well as giving evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee. Last month, the Home Office announced a key reform: pharmacists and others will be able to supply items of equipment to minimise the harm caused by the injecting of illegal drugs.

PROMOTING AWARENESS OF THE PHARMACY PROFESSION

Public relations The Society has a public relations team that handles all media contact, aligning its output with the Council's policy priorities. Some 15 news releases are issued every month to make announcements or comment on issues of the day (most of these are available on the news section of the Society's website at www.rpsgb.org.uk/news). The PR unit maintains good working relationships with national, regional and specialist media. The Society supports the work of the network of branch and regional PR officers who help get the pharmacy message across locally.

Through this work, the profession receives regular national and regional media coverage highlighting pharmacists' expert

knowledge of medicines.

LOOKING AFTER PHARMACY'S HISTORY

Museum The 45,000 items in the museum collections cover all aspects of British pharmacy history. This is a unique resource, tracing the history of pharmacy, primarily over the past 300 years, but with some objects that date back over 2,000 years.

Through its research services, the museum acts as the national point of contact for information about the history of pharmacy, whether for members, the media, other museum professionals, or the general public from students to academic researchers. In addition to the museum's objects, it also cares for both photographic and document archives relating to the Society and the pharmacy profession over the past two centuries.

Through loans and shared exhibitions, the museum works to extend physical access to the collections. Increasingly, information about the collections is being made available on the Society's website, so that it is accessible for enquirers around the world.

SUPPORTING FRAMEWORKS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Branches and regions The Society invests some £500,000 a year in supporting the activities and infrastructure of its branch and regional network. In 2002, many members took part in a consultative review to identify how best to equip the network to meet the challenges of the future. The proposals raised by the membership were adopted by the Council and continue to be implemented, with the aim of ensuring a dynamic future for the local network. A key policy decision was to ensure that branches and regions can play a full part in the implementation of continuing professional development within pharmacy.

Pharmacy development groups The Society has encouraged the formation of pharmacy development groups, which provide local, multisectoral platforms for forward thinking. As a result of the Society's continuing efforts, there is now NHS support for PDGs through the establishment of primary care trust competencies.

PCT professional executive committees Because pharmacists are not included as of right on the boards of primary care trusts in England, it is important that they are among those professionals appointed to the PCT professional executive committee (PEC). As well as lobbying PCTs to appoint pharmacists to PECs, the Society provides support for PEC pharmacists through information bulletins, conferences and the provision of a discussion forum. There are now pharmacists on the PECs of about half the PCTs in England and there is recognition of their important role in "A vision for pharmacy in the new NHS".

DEVELOPING CLINICAL GOVERNANCE FOR THE PROFESSION

Community pharmacy The Society successfully lobbied the Government over the need for funding for community pharmacy clinical governance. Now that this is developing, the Society has undertaken a wide-ranging communications programme on clinical governance, provides a range of support for pharmacists and for clinical governance facilitators and has produced a baseline assessment tool that is now used by most PCTs in England.

Audit There are now over 40 Society audit templates being extensively used by the profession. The Society has been a partner in two national sentinel audits funded by the Department of Health.

HELPING PHARMACISTS ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

CPD The Society has been introducing pharmacists to continuing professional development ahead of it becoming a requirement in 2005. By the end of this year, 15,000 pharmacists will have been included in the roll-out programme. A CPD plan and record has been produced, in both paper and electronic formats.

Information services The Society maintains an invaluable evidence base on the science and practice of pharmacy for use by members, pharmacy students, staff and others. This information resource is used to help support pharmacists with enquiries relating to their day-to-day work but also for many aspects of professional development.

As part of this work, the library and technical information service answer more than 17,000 enquiries a year, mostly from members. The service provides expertise in sourcing and evaluating information held in all formats (including over 70,000 books in the library).

Members benefit from personal or remote access to the resource and its associated services. This includes being able to borrow items, personal use of the reference and database searching facilities.

Website The Society's website, www.rpsgb.org.uk, receives 140,000 visits every month. New online services include a library catalogue, conference booking and Register look-up. The website contains many useful links to other websites and hosts the "Pharmacy in the future" website, a valuable resource for pharmacists in the modernised NHS. A review of the content and design of the website is under way.

BPC The Society runs the annual British Pharmaceutical Conference, an unparalleled opportunity for learning and networking with peers and colleagues. The conference provides both a showcase for pharmaceutical science and practice and includes speakers of national and international standing.

Promoting science The Society has strong working relationships with the science community and works with many groups

and organisations to foster close links. Through the Society's support for the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, there is access to a strong network of scientists in many disciplines. The Society organises a number of science symposia and courses jointly with the academy, with other national and international scientific organisations and with the Society's academic and industry groups.

The Society works to promote pharmacists as "the scientists in the high street". The Society provides a programme for the British Association festival, with the aim of bringing understanding of science to the public. Science fact sheets for pharmacists are distributed on topical issues such as pharmacogenetics, complementary therapies and interactions.

The Society is active in a number of areas of influencing and helping implement national science policy. Recent work in this area include the Society's involvement in securing clinical trials of cannabinoids, the regulation of complementary therapies, the establishment of a forum with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to help overcome barriers to the introduction of new technologies by the pharmaceutical industry, and the establishment of a forum to encourage research on drug delivery systems.

The Society is exploring how the profession needs to develop to meet the opportunities and challenges created by the field of genetics, in particular pharmacogenetics.

BEING PART OF NHS POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Working for pharmacy's future The Society was instrumental in drawing up guidelines for the Department of Health on the principles for pharmacy support to NHS Direct, something that had largely been overlooked when NHS Direct was first established. This was a key step in enabling other pharmacy bodies and the Society to develop pharmacy's links with NHS Direct.

The Society is working with the Department of Health on skill-mix and technician registration.

Dr June Crown chaired the Society's taskforce on prescribing, which has been preparing the ground for pharmacists to take up roles as supplementary prescribers later this year.

The Society is working with the Department of Health to enable better planning of workforce and workload.

The Society convened an expert reference group to advise the Council on best practice in the supply of emergency hormonal contraception as a pharmacy medicine. Other major pieces of practice guidance have been drawn up in collaboration with external experts include guidance care of people with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and care of people with diabetes.

The Society has been involved in developing national occupational standards for those involved in the provision of mental health services.

The Society is a key partner in three of the national collaborating centres producing clinical guidelines for the National Institute for Clinical Excellence. Pharmacists are now regarded as key members of a number of guideline development groups.

The Society has worked with the Commission for Health Improvement on both NHS trust and PCT clinical governance review methodologies. PCT reviews have been adjusted to take account of the Society's suggestions.

A Society representative sits on the National Patient Safety Agency's health care professionals working group, which is looking at how to reduce risks with oral methotrexate.

Along with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists and the Primary Care Pharmacists' Association, the Society is developing a toolkit to reduce the risk of problems with medicines at discharge from hospital.

The Society has successfully lobbied the Department of Health for greater recognition of community pharmacy's potential role in smoking cessation. The Society worked with the Pharmacy Healthlink steering group drawing up a patient group direction for nicotine replacement therapy

and bupropion.

The Society is involved with the MHRA's programme on the reclassification of medicines from POM to P.

The Society successfully persuaded the Competition Commission of its view on veterinarians' monopoly of supply of veterinary medicines.

Recently, an important development has been through the Practice Research Consortium. A major piece of research was undertaken in 2001 that paved the way for the development of minor ailments schemes. Now a number of PCTs are rolling out similar schemes.

Further information about any of these areas of work can be obtained from the Society contacts listed on the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org.uk)

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

Change to the types of outpatient FP10 prescription forms used in hospitals

Pharmacists are advised that in April a number of changes were made to outpatient FP10-type prescriptions, which are issued by hospital-based prescribers to be dispensed in the community. The changes do not affect internal prescriptions or orders for ward stock.

In England the blue FP10MDA form currently used by GPs will gradually replace the pink FP10HP (AD) form as stocks of FP10HP (AD) run out. Prescribers have been informed that FP10HP (AD) forms can be used until their stocks are exhausted or up to November 2003, when any remaining 0901 (or earlier) versions of the FP10HP (AD) should be withdrawn and replaced by the 0403 version of FP10MDA form.

In Wales the FP10HP (AD) will be replaced by a bilingual form issued as W10HP.

Prescribers have been informed that FP10HP (AD) forms can be used until their stocks are exhausted or up to December 2003, when any remaining FP10HP (AD) forms should be withdrawn.

There is currently no proposed change to the forms issued in Scotland.

Information about how to use MDA forms — either in computerised prescribing systems or as handwritten forms — was published in a Department of Health letter issued in March and available from the Department of Health website (www.doh.gov.uk/prescriptionform/instalmentprescribe.htm).

In addition, hospital-based prescribers are now able to use a computer prescription form, FP10SS (single sheet), currently used by general practitioners. The Department of Health has advised hospital prescribers using such forms to print their name and telephone number (including bleep number) on the FP10 in case the community pharmacist has a query about the prescription and needs to contact the prescriber about this.

More information about English prescription forms (including which versions are out of date) and contact details can be found on the Department of Health website at www.doh.gov.uk/prescriptionform

Sale of Pharmaceutical Press books for practising pharmacists

The Pharmaceutical Press — the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's publishing division — is again having a summer sale of books of interest to practising pharmacists. Fourteen books are being made available at reduced prices for a limited period.

The biggest reduction is in the price of 'Biotechnology in healthcare: an introduction to biopharmaceuticals', edited by Gavin Brooks, which is halved in price from £19.95 to £9.95

'Dale and Appelbe's Pharmacy law and ethics' (seventh edition), by Gordon E. Appelbe and Joy Wingfield, is reduced from £29.95 to £24.95 and 'Practical exercises in pharmacy law and ethics' (second edition), by Gordon E. Appelbe, Joy Wingfield and Lindsay M. Taylor, is down from £19.95 to £16.95. A further £4.40 can be saved by buying the two together for £37.50.

Steven B. Kayne's 'Complementary therapies for pharmacists' and 'Patient care in community practice: A handbook of non-medicinal healthcare' (second edition), edited by Robin J. Harman, are both reduced by £5 from £24.95 to £19.95. 'Nutraceuticals' by Lisa Rapport and Brian Lockwood is also reduced by £5, from £29.95 to £24.95.

Three books are reduced by £6 from £34.95 to £29.95. They are 'Dietary supple-

ments' (second edition) by Pamela Mason, 'Research methods in pharmacy practice' by Felicity J. Smith and 'Handbook of pharmacy health education' (second edition), edited by Robin J. Harman. 'Handbook of pharmacy healthcare' (second edition), edited by Robin J. Harman and Pamela Mason is also reduced by £6, from £39.95 to £33.95.

There is also a £2 saving on 'Locum pharmacy: A survival guide' by Pamela Mason, reduced from £9.95 to £7.95.

Finally, there is a reduction on a book not published by the Pharmaceutical Press. Purchasers can save £4.80 on the World Health Organization's 'WHO model formulary', which is reduced from £19.75 to £14.95.

Postage and packaging costs an additional £3 for the first book and 60p for each book thereafter (overseas £4 for the first book and £1 for each book thereafter).

The books can be obtained from the Pharmaceutical Press, PO Box 151, Wallingford OX10 8QU (tel 01491 829 272; fax 01491 829 292; e-mail rpsgb@cabi.org). An order form appears as a centre pull-out in this week's *Pharmaceutical Journal*. Alternatively, secure online purchases can be made through the Pharmaceutical Press website (www.pharmpress.com).

Two new honorary members for the Society

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has two new honorary members. They are Dr John Evans, a former Privy Council nominee member of the Society's Council, and Thomas Lönnngren, executive director of the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA).

The Society's Charter and Byelaws give the Council authority to elect as honorary members "such persons as have rendered distinguished service to the Society or to pharmacy". Dr Evans, a medical practitioner, served the Society as a lay Council member for nearly 15 years, retiring in 2002. He is a physician and barrister and a former deputy chief medical officer in the Department of Health.

Mr Lönnngren is a Swedish pharmacy graduate. He has spent the past 25 years in regulatory affairs, mainly with Sweden's Medical Products Agency (Läkemedelsverket) and its predecessor, the medicines department of the National Board of Health and Welfare. He was appointed deputy director general of the Medical Products Agency in 1998 and has been executive director of the EMEA since 1 January 2001. His predecessor in that role, Fernand Sauer, is also an honorary member of the Society.

Society produces updated guidance for pharmacists on the provision of services to care homes

Updated guidance for pharmacists who provide services to care homes is now available from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

The new document, "Advisory services to care homes", replaces the existing "Practice guidance for pharmacists providing services to nursing and residential homes" in Section 3.1.2 of 'Medicines, ethics and practice: a guide for pharmacists' (27th edition, 2003, p96). It is intended to help pharmacists to develop services and provides guidance on provision of services, service delivery, evaluation and training.

The Society's head of practice, Nigel Graham, said: "The guidance provides further advice on what pharmaceutical services for homes may include, on the organisations or individuals that pharmacists are advised to liaise with and on the training available. It

also contains updates to reflect the new requirements of the National Care Standards Commission's National Minimum Standards (for England) for continuing care and gives further advice on evaluation."

The updated guidance can be downloaded as a PDF file from the practice section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org.uk/practice) or can be obtained 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).

Publication of the new guidance for pharmacists follows the recent issue of new guidance on the administration and control of medicines in care homes and children's homes (*PJ*, 28 June, p909), which is also available from the practice section of the Society's website.

REPLICA JARS FROM THE SOCIETY'S MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Replicas of three ceramic jars from the collections of the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society are available for purchase from the Society:

- Leech jars — copies of a fine example of a 19th century glazed earthenware show jar for leeches, 15cm high with a circumference of 15.5cm, £50
- Drug storage jars — replicas of a pot used for storing candied orange peel, bearing the inscription "C: CORT: AUR", which is an abbreviation of the

Latin "Conditus Cortex Aurantiorum", £75

- Syrup jars — copies of a jar bearing the inscription "S ROSAR. CU AG", an abbreviation of the Latin "Syrupus Rosaceus Solutivus cum Agarico" (solute syrup of rose with agaric), £105

Photographs of the jars can be found on the museum section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org.uk/museum).

All the jars can be purchased from the library at the Society's headquarters, 1 Lam-

beth High Street, London SE1. Further information is available from the museum office (tel 020 7572 2210; e-mail: museum@rpsgb.org.uk).

The leech jars can also be purchased direct from the museum by mail order at £50 each plus £19 postage and packing for up to five jars. Orders should be sent with payment to: Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (Sales), 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN. An order form can be downloaded from the Society's website. The other jars are not available by mail order.

DEATHS

Abadzis On 14 June, Pierre Marius Abadzis, MRPharmS, of 42 Ailsa Road, St Margaret's-on-Thames, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 1QW. Mr Abadzis registered in 1953 (see Tribute, below).

TRIBUTES

Abadzis In a tribute to the late Pierre Marius Abadzis (see above), RIVITA RODRIGUES, Dr MEHAR MANKU and Dr CHARLES STEWART write: Pierre Abadzis, Greek-born in Alexandria, Egypt, studied pharmacy at the University of Louvain, Belgium. Arriving in England, he registered and became a member of the Pharmaceutical Society in 1953.

Pierre's career was dedicated to various senior positions in the pharmaceutical industry: Parke-Davis in the United Kingdom and United States, Pharmacia in Sweden and Switzerland, and then Efamol-Scotia Pharmaceuticals in the UK before retiring in 1998.

Those of us who were fortunate to work with him found him to be a thorough professional, enthusiastic personality, excellent manager, superb motivator, fountain of knowledge and a first-class person with the highest ethical standards. A Greek scholar, he often used quotes to make a significant point. He was also accomplished in five languages that would help him enormously in his travels worldwide.

He is greatly missed for his wisdom, advice and wonderful sense of humour. His substantial contribution to the pharmaceutical industry and our careers will not be forgotten. He was an achiever and outstanding man in every respect.

Our thoughts remain with Josephine, Alex, Nicholas and Natalie at this sad time.

Greenfield In a tribute to the late Eric Spencer Greenfield (*PJ*, 2 August, p161), Professor TONY MOFFAT (chief scientist, Royal Pharmaceutical Society) writes: Eric was a great person to work with on scientific matters because of his attention to detail, rigorous approach to accuracy and ability to write complex scientific matters in clear English. I first met him at the Society when he provided the secretariat for the second edition of 'Clarke's Isolation and identification of drugs'. One of his great strengths was his gentle manner when explaining a better way of putting things. If I had a new idea that I was too enthusiastic about he would say something like, "Well, Tony, that's an interesting idea, but there may be a better way of doing it." He would then painstakingly explain why the way he was suggesting was the best way forward — and it nearly always was.

He had real earnestness about making sure that the readers of the books he was editing understood what was written there and could make the best of the information. He many times said to me that we should put "Read the General Notices" on each page of all the books to help readers appreciate that

only by doing so would they get complete understanding of what was there. He was always thinking about the readers' needs.

Other staff here at the Society also remember him with great affection. Current members of the British National Formulary and Martindale editorial teams have told me how Eric taught and mentored them when they first started to edit books. His great patience and great editorial knowledge made him a super person from whom to learn the trade. He also had a great sense of humour.

Eric's name is on many of the books published by the Society. He was secretary to many of the committees through several editions of the British Pharmaceutical Codex during the 1960s and '70s before he started work on the second edition of Clarke. He was then appointed editor of the new Veterinary Formulary and set up the system to make the editorial work run smoothly.

At the same time as editing, he also acted as the permanent secretariat for the Joint Pharmaceutical Analysis Group during the 1970s and '80s. It was an important time, as the group expanded both its membership and the scope of its activities during that period. It was typical of his modesty that all correspondence was merely sent to Room 403 at the Society. He did not wish to be named, since he regarded it as a service.

Eric also served his community, his church and his family. But he was not known as Eric. From his teens he was called Jimmy as there was another Eric at the youth club that he attended and he did not wish to be confused with him. He regarded family and friends as important and gently turned down invitations to stay behind at work to socialise because he wanted to get home to be with them.

He worked tirelessly for the church and the local Scouts, acting as Scout leader from 1965 for 22 years. In his retirement, he even brought out his editing skills to edit the diocesan newsletter. As his local parish priest put it, "He was a good, honest, Christian man and a role model." Eric had his fullness and commitment in all that he did.

His wife Paddy and son and daughter (Tony and Valerie) celebrated his life with their friends and family at the requiem mass for which Eric had chosen the hymns. He wanted it to be a good celebration of his life and not a sad occasion. We offer our sympathy and condolences to Paddy and her family at this time.

He was a gentle gentleman, we shall all miss him.

STRESS PROBLEM?

Are you suffering from stress? Do you need help in coping with it?

The Listening Friends Scheme, set up by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, provides an opportunity for you to talk about your problems in complete confidence with a fellow pharmacist who is trained in listening skills. All you have to do is telephone the scheme's help-line on 020 7572 2442.

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).

Pharmacy education

A meeting on "Pharmacy education: change or crisis? Professional training vs science education" is to be held at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's London headquarters on Monday 17 November. The meeting will begin at 10.15am (registration and coffee from 9.30am) and close at 4.30pm.

The meeting is being organised jointly by the Society's Science Committee, the Society's Academic Pharmacy Group and the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Its aims are to review the context of pharmacy education over the next 10 years with respect to course structure, employers' needs and the role of the Society, to explore innovative approaches to the integration of science and practice, and to look at external drivers for change, including the recent Government White Paper on the future of higher education.

The event will include workshops to address specific issues and report back in plenary session. The objective is to develop consensus views on the important issues and to inform the development of a strategy for pharmacy education.

The registration fee for the meeting is £100, but a reduced fee of £40 applies to members of the Society, the Academic Pharmacy Group and the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Number are limited and applicants will be registered in order of receipt of applications.

Further details are available from Judy Callanan at the Society's headquarters (tel 020 7572 2261; fax 020 7572 2506; e-mail science@rpsgb.org.uk).

Chiltern region: medicines management

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Chiltern region is to hold a one-day conference on "Quality medicines management in older people: a CNS focus" at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Hatfield, on 19 October.

The aim of the conference is to provide an update on the changes occurring in the management of diseases in this area. Speakers at the morning session will examine the public health perspective and provide updates on developments in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, psychoses and Parkinson's disease. In the afternoon there will be short presentations on practical examples of pharmacy practice and a panel discussion.

The cost is £25 per person (£12.50 for preregistration trainees), which includes lunch and refreshments.

Further programme information and booking details are available from Jackie Ruffle (tel 0118 969 2510; e-mail JCRuffle@aol.com).

OFFICIAL NOTICES

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.pjonline.com/notices)

Statutory Committee inquiries

The Statutory Committee will meet at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1, at 9.45am on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 August 2003 to hear the following inquiries and applications:

Wednesday 13 August

1. An inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against a pharmacist which alleges that the taking by the pharmacist of dihydrocodeine 30mg tablets from the pharmacy between October 2001 and July 2002 for his own use without the authority of prescriptions may amount to misconduct.
2. An inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against a pharmacist which alleges that the endorsement of 20 prescriptions calling for either two or three refill cartridges of Genotropin to the effect that the number of cartridges prescribed had been dispensed on each occasion when only one cartridge had been supplied, and the submission of such erroneously endorsed prescriptions to the Prescription Pricing Authority for payment, may amount to misconduct.

THE SOCIETY'S SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has special interest groups for community pharmacists, for veterinary pharmacists, for industrial and technical pharmacists, for hospital and for pharmacy academic staff.

The groups hold meetings to consider topics of interest within their own fields of practice and they provide a source of advice to the Society's Council on specialist matters. Each group is administered by a committee, most of whose members are elected by the group, the remainder being members of the Council. Details of the groups can be obtained from the following persons at the Society's headquarters:

- Ann Harrington (practice division) for the Community Pharmacists Group and Industrial Pharmacists Group (tel 020 7572 2411)
- Liz Griffiths (practice division) for the Veterinary Pharmacists Group and Hospital Pharmacists Group (tel 020 7572 2408);
- Rachel Ollerearnshaw (education division) for the Academic Pharmacy Group (020 7572 2375).

Written enquiries should be addressed to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN.

Thursday 14 August

3. A resumed inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against a pharmacist which includes allegations that the pharmacist's failure to ensure that a pharmacist was present at the pharmacy from the opening time of 9am on specified dates, failures to ensure compliance with the requirements for recording supplies of Controlled Drugs, private prescriptions and emergency supplies and the presence of date-expired stock or medicines without batch numbers and/or expiry dates on the dispensary shelves amounts to misconduct.
4. An application for restoration from a person whose name has been removed from the Register.
5. An application for restoration from a person whose name has been removed from the Register.

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

Wednesday 13 August	
Statutory Committee	9.45am
Thursday 14 August	
Statutory Committee	9.45am

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

Tweddell Simon and Louise (née Vaughan), both ex-Bradford (1987-91 and 1988-92) are delighted to announce the arrival of Lucy Elizabeth, born 3 May 2003, a sister for Eleanor. Now at 9 Redwing Drive, Bradford BD6 3YD. E-mail s.j.tweddell@bradford.ac.uk.

MARRIAGES

Dean Bryony (ex-Bath 1987-90, the Square 1993-94 and the Square 1997-90) is very happy to announce her recent marriage to David Franklin (ex-Cambridge, Mathematics, 1987-91). Now at 27 Sonia Gardens, London NW10 1AG.

CONGRATULATIONS

Shellard The officers and members of the Hounslow and District branch of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society extend their congratulations to past chairman Professor E. J. Shellard on his 90th birthday on 8 August. Professor Shellard has been a member of the branch since 1958 and served for many years on the committee.