

The Society

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Views sought on structuring Society for professional leadership and development

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is this week publishing a discussion paper seeking views on how both its professional leadership and development responsibilities and its regulatory work can be properly informed and effectively discharged in the future. The paper appears as a four-page centre pull-out in this issue of *The Journal* (after p420).

The paper is the latest stage in the process of making the Society “fit for the future”. Following the Council’s decisions on the future governing Council and fitness-to-practise machinery, the paper sets out some thoughts, and seeks views, on how to develop a structure below the Council to ensure that the Society’s professional leadership and development (PLD) responsibilities, as well as its regulatory work, are properly informed and effectively discharged.

The paper defines PLD in terms of the coming together of several strands — a belief in the value of the profession, a sense of responsibility for passing pharmacy on to the next generation in a healthy state, a recognition that pharmacy is a diverse family whose strength lies in unity and a recognition that the profession’s future cannot be left to chance or the whims of government.

The paper says that PLD is the essential partner to modern regulation. They share functions such as standard setting and continuing professional development and act together to ensure the highest standards of care for patients. In its regulatory role the Society needs to take full account of the professional perspective and in its PLD role it must be aware of regulatory requirements and public expectations.

The paper goes on to discuss what the new structure needs to do and what it should not do. It says that the Society must not become the domain of any self-selected cadres or groups within the profession, that the Society’s different parts must not work in silos effectively cut off from each other and that the Society should not become too introspective or protectionist. The paper adds that whatever structure is agreed must be effective, efficient and affordable.

The range of possible structures that the Society could adopt is “bewilderingly large”, the paper says. But, to prompt further thinking, it goes on to set out three possible models — pointing out that none is perfect and

none has yet been assessed against criteria agreed by the Council.

One model, a refinement of the model presented at the British Pharmaceutical Conference in 2002, would create five PLD bodies under the Council. Two “academies” would address issues of education and science and three “senates” would address the clinical and practice elements of the Society’s work in England, Scotland and Wales. The senates and academies would contribute to the Society’s policy cycle and their chairmen would attend Council meetings but without a vote.

Another model is based on the proposal of Council member Clive Jackson at the Council’s discussion on 2 July. It envisages a senate, subordinate to the Council, with most members drawn from the Council, plus others from the chairmen of several “faculties” representing defined sections of the profession. The faculties would contribute to the Society’s policy cycle. In time, all the faculties would come together under one umbrella, analogous to a medical royal college. The Council would retain ultimate authority and accountability for the work of the senate, which would have a significant range of delegated responsibilities including co-ordinat-

ing the PLD work of the faculties.

The third illustrative model takes a slightly different approach to the others. It envisages a combination of standing bodies and ad hoc groups. The former would oversee substantive areas, concentrating on agenda setting, co-ordination and review; the latter would be set up for particular purposes, with a “task and finish” brief. The model also includes an element of networking, which it defines as a planned and co-ordinated attempt to bring together appropriate people to focus on particular policy issues in a way that is less rigid and bureaucratic than a committee-dominated structure.

The paper concludes by listing 10 specific issues on which views are sought. It asks for views to be sent to the Society’s Modernisation Programme Project Manager, Christine Gray, by 1 December.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your views are needed

The Society’s President, Dr Gill Hawksworth, calls on all members to contribute to the discussion on how the future Society should be structured

This week, the Society publishes an important discussion paper aimed at generating wider debate and encouraging thoughts and ideas on the framework below the governing Council that will carry out much of the detailed work in the future.

This framework will be essential to ensuring that the future Society will be competent and credible as an integrated professional and regulatory body. The structures below the Council will be key to ensuring that our profession, and those we seek to influence, see the Society as an organisation worth listening to, and are confident of our ability to discharge our remit effectively and efficiently. This will include ensuring that we properly reflect

diversity within pharmacy, both in terms of devolution and the different types of professional practice.

Three possible models are outlined in the paper, which highlights some of the issues we will need to consider. None of these is fully developed. None has been assessed or tested to find out whether it could work effectively, and none has yet been costed to check whether it would be affordable. They are illustrated to help share thinking to date, to prompt comment and to help us, with your input, to develop further ideas on these important points over the next few months.

I would encourage you to contribute to this important piece of work and look forward to hearing your views.

LAW AND ETHICS BULLETIN

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

Changes to aspirin legislation from 1 October

New labelling and leaflet requirements recognising the possible link between aspirin use in children and Reye's syndrome (*PJ*, 27 April 2002, p557) come into force on 1 October.

The Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisations Etc) Amendment Regulations 2003 require the inclusion of the words "Do not give to children aged under 16 years, unless on the advice of a doctor" on the labels of relevant medicinal products on the general sale list containing aspirin or aloxiprin. The package leaflet

included in the packaging of such products has to include the words "There is a possible association between aspirin and Reye's syndrome when given to children. Reye's syndrome is a very rare disease, which can be fatal. For this reason aspirin should not be given to children aged under 16 years, unless on the advice of a doctor."

The Society's Code of Ethics states that a pharmacist's prime concern must be for the wellbeing and safety of patients and the public. Pharmacists are advised to use their professional judgement when requests for

aspirin or aloxiprin products are made for, or by, persons under 16 years old.

On and after 1 October, all stock must carry the new wording on the label and the package leaflet. manufacturers may instigate recalls of stock placed on the market before that date. In the event of a recall pharmacists should comply fully to ensure a rapid transition from the old packs to the new packs.

At the time of going to press, details of a transitional period for all aspirin 75mg products are still awaited. As soon as these are available, details will be published.

Museum contributes to Dr Samuel Johnson exhibition

A number of objects from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's museum are on display in a new exhibition, "The tyranny of treatment: Dr Samuel Johnson, his friends and Georgian medicine", at Dr Johnson's House in London's Gough Square.

The exhibition — in the garret where the lexicographer compiled the first English Dictionary between 1747 and 1755 — examines the health of Dr Johnson and five of his closest friends and explores the treatment they used for conditions as diverse as blindness, hearing problems, asthma, depression, venereal disease and breast cancer.

The museum has lent a domestic medicine chest from the early 1800s, something that would have been familiar to Dr Johnson and his friends. Its contents are almost complete, including a wide range of medicines from tincture of rhubarb to laudanum, as well as a scaled down mortar and pestle, pill tile and a balance and its weights.

The museum has also lent individual items such as a Singleton's eye ointment pot with its original contents and parchment cover, and a number of caricatures.



One of the caricatures lent to Dr Johnson's House is "Breathing a vein", drawn by Rev John Sneyd, etched by James Gillray and published in 1804. (The caricature is available as a greetings card from the museum)

Visitors to the exhibition will also be able to refer to the museum's information sheets on the history of dispensing techniques to provide context to the items on display.

The Society's Keeper of the Museum Collections, Briony Hudson, said: "We are extremely pleased to be involved in such a fascinating exhibition. It is an excellent opportunity to make some remarkable objects from our collections accessible to a wider public."

The exhibition is open to the public until 31 January 2004 and is included in the house's usual entry fee (£4 adults, £3 concessions). Opening hours are Monday to Saturday 11am to 5.30pm (October to April 11am to 5pm). The nearest Underground stations are Blackfriars and Chancery Lane. The house is well signposted from Fetter Lane, Shoe Lane and Fleet Street. Further information about the exhibition is available from the curator, Natasha McEnroe (tel 020 7353 3745; e-mail curator@drjohnson-house.org). The exhibition is supported by the Wellcome Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Society opens doors for London Open House weekend

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society opened its doors to the public on Saturday 20 September as part of the 2003 London Open House weekend.

Visitors took the opportunity to have a guided tour around the Council Chamber, committee rooms, Council dining room, assembly hall and roof terrace. Many also spent time viewing the museum displays on the first floor, and a display about the Society's headquarters which had been prepared specifically for the Open House weekend.

The Society's Keeper of the Museum Collections, Briony Hudson, said: "By taking part in London Open House visitors are able to learn more about the Society, its history, and the building itself. Making the museum displays and historic portraits accessible to the public is a key part of the event and is an added attraction which we know that visitors enjoy."



Visitors Richard Sbea and Alison Hudson enjoy the roof terrace view

Inspectors' preregistration talks

Each year, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's professional standards inspectors organise a series of informal half-day presentations for preregistration trainees. The aim is to give trainees an understanding of the support available to pharmacists from the inspectors and from the Society's directorate responsible for legal affairs and pharmacists' fitness to practise.

The sessions are open to all trainees, who may attend the presentation of their own choice. There is no charge for attendance, but any travel costs will have to be met by the trainee or employer.

The presentations take place at a range of venues across Britain. Most will be early in the new year, but a session in Crewe is scheduled for Monday 13 October 2003. It

will take place from 9.30am to 12.30pm in the Mental Health Conference Room at Leighton Hospital, Middlewich Road, Crewe, Cheshire (trainees should report to the hospital pharmacy for directions to the conference room), and will be given by Steven Gascoigne, the inspector for that area. Advance booking is not necessary. The venue is about four miles from Crewe railway station, from which buses run frequently. The hospital has a car park.

Details of all the presentations are to be sent to preregistration trainees and tutors with the Society's next preregistration bulletin, which is to be sent out in mid-November. The information will also be placed on the preregistration training page of the Society's website.

First regional website

One of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's regions has now joined a number of branches in taking up the Society's offer of space on its website.

The Border region aims to provide detailed information about branch meetings and other relevant events throughout the area. The region's website is maintained by Helen Kendall, who also looks after the Durham branch site.

The 43 branch and regional websites can be reached by clicking on the "branches and regions" link from the "About the Society" section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org.uk/society).

Other branches or regions wishing to have their own space on the Society's website should e-mail the website editor, Mary Snell, at msnell@rpsgb.org.uk.

TRIBUTES

Stewart In a tribute to the late Alan Finlay Stewart (*PJ*, 23 August, p252), MICHAEL BERRY, senior lecturer in pharmacology, John Moores University, writes: Joining the school of pharmacy in Liverpool, from a Nigerian University, I was surprised to learn Alan had been born there, before being educated in Northern Ireland. Here he qualified as a hockey referee, a skill used in maintaining order when staff played students! After graduation from Manchester University, he spent a time in hospital pharmacy before coming to the then private school in the late 1950s. He was involved in changes in pharmacy education as the school became a part of the polytechnic, and as senior lecturer in pharmacognosy, he published on *Rauwolfia* species with Dr Bill Court. Alan accepted early retirement in 1989 to practise community pharmacy on the Wirral.

An analytical microscopist and photomicrographer, he developed a consultancy when commissioning instrumentation for densitometry, spectroscopy and chromatography, and had an early interest in interactive wound dressings. Among the first to introduce new teaching technologies, he used closed circuit television and videotapes. In retirement he became a computer buff, a desktop publisher, and completed a course on video editing. He changed cars frequently, no doubt to test the new gizmos.

A retiring person, he politely declined appearances in the staff pantomime, but laboured hard on the set and props. Unflappable, he rarely spoke at staff meetings, maintaining there was no point in repeating what had already been said. His dry sense of humour and the fact he did not suffer fools gladly possibly left students with an inadequate view of his sense of fun and zest for life. He was highly regarded as a valued colleague, always one of the first to offer help.

His greatest joy was the annual Merseyside Christian Youth Camps, where young people found friendship, fun and a challenge to faith. Each year he spent hours preparing accommodation, including installing an industrial kitchen range, and bought sweets in

quantity. His commitment as Elder benefited Hoylake Chapel, where the problem of incorporating a baptismal pool in its new building engaged his amused interest. Recently we chatted in the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall during the interval of a Christian concert. Alan saw worship as "worthship", and sought to give God his worth by a life of sacrificial service. Many have testified to the enormous contribution he made.

On a personal level, I thank him for the example of his life so well spent. "Hold such in high esteem" (Phillipians 2:29). The director of school, staff and retired colleagues join me in sending our sympathy to his wife Norah, children Alison, Philip and Raymond, and grandchildren. Thank you for sharing Alan with us.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Communications to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society should be addressed, except where otherwise stated, to the Secretary and Registrar, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 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 decisions

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

On Tuesday 16 September 2003, in the inquiry into **Ziad Khattab**, of 3 Albert Road, Eccles, Manchester, the committee, having found misconduct established, resolved to

direct the Registrar to remove Mr Khattab's name from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists. Under Section 11 of the Pharmacy Act 1954, this direction is not to take effect until the expiration of a period of three months from the date on which notice of removal is given or in a case where an appeal has been brought against the direction, until the appeal is determined or withdrawn.

In the resumed inquiry into **Matthew Richard Jacques**, of 32 Dylan Thomas Road, Nottingham, the committee, having found misconduct established at the earlier hearing, resolved to reprimand Mr Jacques.

On Wednesday 17 September 2003, in the application for restoration of **Paul Robert Crawford**, of 4 South Avenue, Goring by Sea, Worthing, the committee resolved to direct that the name of Mr Crawford should be restored to the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists.

In the inquiry into **Divya Tanna and Elgin Court Ltd**, of 314 Sangley Road, Catford, London SE6, the committee resolved to adjourn the inquiry.

On Thursday 18 September 2003, in the resumed inquiry into **Alexander Harper**, of 20 Thornhill Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, the committee, having found misconduct established at the earlier hearing, resolved to reprimand Mr Harper.

In the application for restoration of **Brian Hope Robertson**, of 4 Wansfell Avenue, Carlisle, Cumbria, the committee resolved to direct that the name of Mr Robertson should be restored to the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists.

In the application for restoration of **John Dickinson**, of 9 Brockwell Centre, Durham Road, Cramlington, Northumberland, the committee resolved to direct that the name of Mr Dickinson should be restored to the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists.

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

DIARY

HEADQUARTERS MEETINGS

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

Monday 29 September
Resource Management Committee 2pm

Tuesday 30 September
Education Committee 10.30am
Infringements Committee 1.30pm
Council meeting 3.30pm
Council informal supper 6pm

Wednesday 1 October
Council meeting 9am

LOCAL MEETINGS

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

Monday 29 September
Bury and Rochdale "Palliative care, past, present and future" by David Garbutt (Macmillan clinical nurse specialist in palliative care). Village Bury, Waterfold Business Park, Rochdale Road, Bury. 7.30 for 8pm.

Tuesday 30 September
Macclesfield "Learning from Shipman" by Mike Beard (Greater Manchester Police). Education and Training Centre, Macclesfield District General Hospital. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

Thursday 2 October
Hounslow "Hounslow pharmacy needle exchange scheme" by Sam Pisano (pharmacy needle exchange scheme, co-ordinator). Education Centre, West Middlesex University Hospital, Twickenham Road. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Charles Christian Niimar Aryiku

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Professional Standards Directorate needs urgently to contact a pharmacist, Charles Christian Niimar Aryiku (registration number 1066104). Any member or employer who knows of Mr Aryiku's whereabouts is asked to contact Gill Hutchinson, acting chief inspector at the Society's headquarters on 020 7572 2311.

Weald of Kent "Wound management" by Paul Warley (executive territory manager, wound care, ConvaTec). Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8.15pm.

Friday 3 October
Bolton Annual professional dinner. Arts and Conference Centre Bolton School, Chorley New Road, Bolton. 7.30 for 8pm.

Sunday 5 October
Crawley, Horsham and Reigate Visit to Denbies Winery, Dorking. Contact Rachael Clements for details on 01737 77283 or visit branch website.

Monday 6 October
Bolton "Halitosis" by Gary Cousins (consultant in maxillofacial surgery). Education Centre, Royal Bolton Hospital, Farnworth. Buffet. 7.30 for 8pm.

Cheltenham and Gloucester "Continuing professional development" by Mandy Matthews and Nicky O'Brien. Cheltenham Postgraduate Centre, College Lawn, Cheltenham. 7.15 for 8pm.

Sefton "The history of depression and antidepressants" by Sally Anne Owens (clinical liaison manager, medical division, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals). Salus Centre, Southport District General Hospital. Buffet 7.30, meeting 8pm.

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).

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 central nervous system 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).

Advertisement

Correction

Details of presentations for preregistration trainees by Royal Pharmaceutical Society inspectors will be sent to trainees and tutors in a special mailing and not with a preregistration bulletin in November (p433).