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Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain

Good response to introduction of online fee payment service

The online payment service introduced for 2004 Royal Pharmaceutical Society retention fees has been well accepted and is working well, the Society says. Despite unexpected delays in the postal delivery of retention fee packs, more than 1,500 full-time and overseas members had paid their fees online by 7 January. Thousands of other members have also already made arrangements to pay their 2004 fees.

Pharmacists' retention fee packs were mailed by 18 December 2003 in the expectation that most members would receive them before Christmas. However, feedback suggests that many packs had still not been delivered by the beginning of January. The Society is investigating the reason for this delay.

The Society would have preferred to have despatched the retention fee packs earlier, but was unable to authorise the printing of the pack materials until it had gained the Privy Council's approval for the new fee scales. Approval was not received until 1 December 2003.

Registration section staff have taken a number of calls from members worried about being erased from the register for non-payment. Andrew Gardner, Head of Registration, said: "Although retention fees

were due on 1 January, the Society does not expect every member to have paid their fees by this date. Clearly it is unreasonable to expect members to have paid their fees within a matter of days of receipt of the retention fee form. Those who have not made payment by the end of January will receive a reminder before any action is taken."

The premises annual return and retention fee mailing has also encountered difficulties. The external processing agent used by the Society entered premises details incorrectly on some premises forms and duplicate replacement forms have had to be sent to the premises owners affected.

"We are advising those owners of premises affected by the error not to complete the first set of forms," said Andrew Gardner. "A second set will be with them shortly, and we are asking owners to return payment with the second set of forms. I apologise on behalf of the Society to all those owners affected."

During the retention fee and annual return collection cycle, the Society expects to collect 46,000 retention fee forms and payments from individual pharmacists and 5,000 annual returns and retention payments relating to 12,000 registered premises.

Report examines impact of national policy developments on pharmacists' future roles

A report published this week by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's policy development unit examines the likely impact of recent national policy developments on the future roles of pharmacists.

The report is the outcome of a consultation on Phase 1 of a project on the competencies needed by the future pharmacy workforce. The consultation attracted 72 responses — 45 of them from organisations, 11 from professional groups and 16 from individuals. Most of the respondents supported the project and the contribution they believed it would make to the development of the profession.

Eileen Neilson, head of policy development at the Society, said that the comments

received in the consultation responses would be fed into further development of the new competency framework. A new steering group would integrate the project with the Society's strategic development of pharmacy education and training. The new competency framework would undergo initial "reality testing" with 150 pharmacists, the results of which would be published.

All the consultation respondents will be sent a copy of the report. Others can obtain copies of the summary or full report by contacting Karen Turnham at the Society's headquarters (tel 020 7572 2218; e-mail kturnham@rpsgb.org.uk). The report will also be available shortly on the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org.uk).

This week

■ Retention fees

The Online service for payment of retention fees for 2004 has been well received (p35).

■ Competency needs

A new report examines the likely impact of recent national policy developments on the competences needed by the future pharmacy workforce (p35)..

■ Scottish Executive vacancy

A vacancy has occurred on the Scottish Executive following the resignation of Professor Clare Mackie as she moves to a new job in Kent (p35).

■ Society's new staff structure

The Society has announced further changes to its staff structure designed to strengthen its integrated roles as a modern regulatory body and a professional organisation (p36).

Vacancy on Scottish Executive as Clare Mackie resigns

A casual vacancy has occurred on the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Scottish Executive following the resignation of Professor Clare Mackie.

Professor Mackie has resigned because of her appointment as the first head of the new Medway school of pharmacy, which is due to open in September (*PJ*, 6 December 2003, p766). She leaves Scotland this month to take up her new post after several years as professor of pharmaceutical care at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, and head of the Centre for Partnership in Medicines for Health.

Professor Mackie was first elected to the executive in 1997 and was elected to the Society's Council in the following year. She resigned from the Council in 2000 and was re-elected to the executive in 2002.

Scottish Executive chairman David Thomson said: "Clare has made a significant contribution to the workings of the Scottish Executive, both as a directly elected representative and as a member of Council. I join with fellow members of the executive in thanking Clare for her input into our proceedings and extend to her our very best wishes for success in her new role."

The Society's Byelaws allow the executive to fill casual vacancies "in such manner and subject to such conditions as the executive may determine".

Staff structure changed to strengthen Society's roles

Further changes to the staff structure of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society have been announced.

Following its decision last year to reorganise into a body based on seven staff directorates, the Society has now created several new senior posts "to strengthen the integrated roles of the Society as a modern regulatory body and professional organisation for pharmacy". (Recruitment advertisements, pp A34-36.)

The new structure is part of the Council's reform of the Society and its ways of working. Early last year, the Council asked the Secretary and Registrar to come forward with proposals for a new structure that would support the Society's operations in line with best management practice. As a result, it was decided to increase the number of directorates from five to seven, with three new director posts to be filled (*PJ*, 31 May 2003, p772).

In July last year, the Council set objectives and criteria for developing a new structure for the Council and these were used in the review of the staff structure. As a result, there has been reorganisation of senior posts within four of the new directorates — Education and Registration, Fitness to Practise and Legal Affairs, Practice and Quality Improvement, and Corporate and Strategic Development. The directorates of Finance and Resource and Public Affairs and Communications will not

change at present, and the future structure of the Publications Directorate is to be considered separately by the Council.

Recommendations for the staff structure of the Scottish Department and Welsh Executive will be brought forward after a detailed review of their role and remit in the light of developing devolution.

In those directorates undergoing restructuring, the new direct report structure is as follows:

Education and Registration

- Head of education (to manage higher education and continuing professional development)
- Head of preregistration (managing adjudication)
- Head of registration
- Head of support staff regulation

Fitness to Practise and Legal Affairs

- Chief inspector
- Head of fitness to practise and advisory services (dealing with impairment by reasons of ill-health)
- Head of investigation (handling complaints screening)
- Head of professional conduct (managing disciplinary processes)
- Legal adviser
- Head of animal medicines inspectorate

Practice and Quality Improvement

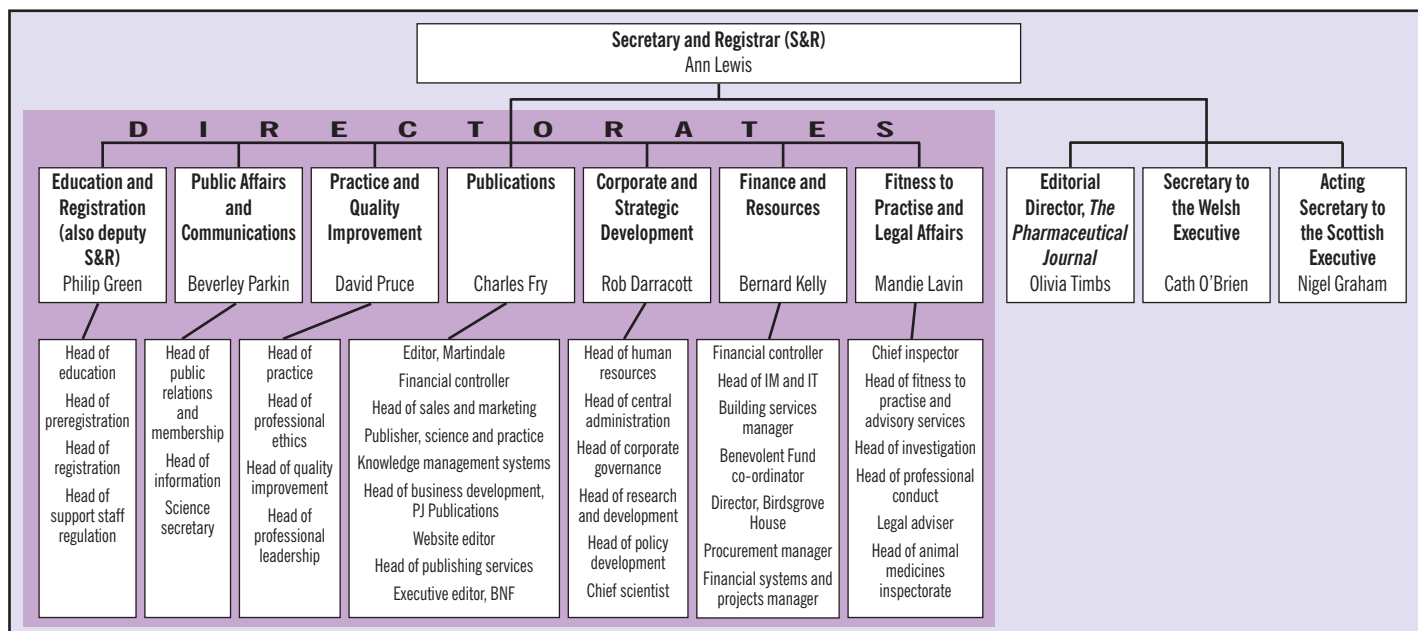
- Head of practice (taking forward practice development)
- Head of professional ethics (developing professional ethics and values)
- Head of quality improvement (supporting quality improvement in the profession)
- Head of professional leadership (supporting the profession's development)

Corporate and Strategic Development

- Head of human resources
- Head of central administration
- Head of corporate governance (managing the development of the organisational framework)
- Head of research and development
- Head of policy development
- Chief scientist

Ann Lewis, the Society's Secretary and Registrar, said: "I am pleased that we have made such good progress in building our staff teams. Our new structures have been put in place to make us as effective as possible in our work of implementing the Council's policies and decisions for the profession."

She added: "We are all determined to achieve more joined up ways of working so that we make the most of the great expertise and skills at all levels within our organisation."



January amendments to 'Medicines, ethics and practice'

The monthly cumulative list of amendments to the 27th edition of 'Medicines, ethics and practice: A guide for pharmacists' is being held

over this month because there is only one amendment to be made. Owners of the guide are asked to retain the list of amendments published in *The Journal*

of 6 December 2003 (p797) and to note the addition of the following new product:
Veno's for Kids GSL

Statutory Committee reprimands locum pharmacist whose action left pharmacy closed for three days

The Statutory Committee has reprimanded a Cornwall locum pharmacist who “stormed out” of the pharmacy of which he was in charge, resulting in its closure for three days.

At its meeting on 14 April 2003, the committee inquired into the case of Stephen Bruce Inns, of the Toll House, The Barns, Lower Treluswell, Perryn, Cornwall. A complaint had been received from the Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society alleging that Mr Inns had failed to honour professional obligations to Tesco Stores Ltd on 30 May 2002 and that he had failed to honour contractual commitments to Tesco on 31 May and 1 June 2002.

Geoff Hudson, of Penningtons (solicitors), attended the inquiry to present the facts of the case.

Mr Inns was neither present nor represented, having indicated that he did not intend to appear.

The committee decided to proceed in Mr Inns's absence. It heard that the case arose from incidents occurring while Mr Inns was working as a locum pharmacist at Tesco's in-store pharmacy at Helston. He had been working there regularly for three days a week for a little over a year. He had signed an agreement whereby he had agreed, inter alia,

to give not less than three days' written notice if he wished to terminate his engagement. In January 2002, in talks with his managers, Mr Inns had publicly expressed his dissatisfaction with his employment and with his terms of service. He had also been dismissive over use of the company's error risk management report forms, which recorded “near misses” — dispensing errors corrected before a prescription was handed out. There had also been a series of disagreements with a dispensing assistant in the early months of 2002.

This culminated on 29 May 2002 when Mr Inns told the company's pharmacy support manager that he did not want the assistant to work in the dispensary. The following day she was still in the dispensary and Mr Inns had left the premises, shouting at the store manager in the presence of patients, one of whom had been “desperate” for her prescriptions

Pharmacy closed

Giving the committee's decision, the chairman (Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC), said that when Mr Inns had “stormed out” the pharmacy had had to be closed, in order to stay within the law, not only for the remainder of that day but for the succeeding two

days, to the obvious detriment of at least one patient. Mr Inns had a contract by which he had agreed to attend not only on 30 May but also on 31 May and 1 June. He did not honour those commitments. It was unacceptable conduct for a professional man to fail to honour what he had undertaken to do.

In Mr Inns's absence from the inquiry, said the chairman, it was difficult to decide whether this was an isolated and irrational response on his part or whether the incident was indicative of a deeper instability.

The committee was not impressed by Mr Inns's attitude to the “most worthwhile” scheme of pharmacy error risk management undertaken by Tesco, a scheme that had secured the approval of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

“That”, said Lord Fraser, “may be indicative of an attitude to his professional practice which he ought to re-examine”. Regretfully, it appeared that, in Mr Inns's eyes, everyone was out of step except him. “He should understand that as a professional man, apart from anything else, it is his responsibility to get along with those who work with him in pharmacy practice.”

The committee reprimanded Mr Inns.

Reprimand from Statutory Committee for pharmacist who only paid part-time retention fee for three years although working full time

A Lincolnshire pharmacist who had only paid the fees for members working part-time over a three-year period when he had been fully employed, has been reprimanded by the Statutory Committee.

At its meetings on 14 April and 18 November 2003 the committee inquired into the case of Harold Leslie Peet, of 68 Willoughby Road, Boston, Lincolnshire.

A complaint had been received from the Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society alleging that that in the years 2000 and 2001 Mr Peet had paid the reduced retention fee for members working part time although he had worked more than 13 weeks in each year.

It was also alleged that he had failed to pay the balance of the retention fee for the year 2002 as soon as he had exceeded 13 weeks' work during that year, despite having signed a declaration in the terms set out in Schedule 4 to the Byelaws on or before 18 February 2002 stating that if he were to be employed for more than 13 weeks he would remit without demand the balance of the full-time fee.

At both hearings, Geoff Hudson, of Penningtons (solicitors) presented the facts of the case to the committee.

Mr Peet did not attend either hearing and was not represented.

Giving the committee's decision at the 14 April hearing, the chairman (Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC) said that, as Mr Peet had paid reduced fees in 2000, 2001 and 2003 but had gone on to work for more than 13 weeks in each of those years. He had not paid the additional £60 due in 2000 and £62 in 2001 and he had not paid £81 due in 2002 immediately — or “forthwith” as the Byelaws required — although he had done so eventually. He still owed £122 to the Society.

Professional body misled

Whether it was a proper use of the Statutory Committee to be, as it were, a debt collection agency might be open to question, remarked Lord Fraser. On the other hand, Mr Peet had misled his professional body over the time he was gainfully employed: he was perfectly well aware of what was required of him in terms of payment.

In the committee's view, that failure “just” amounted to misconduct such as to render him unfit to have his name on the register. “It

is a pharmacist's responsibility as a professional man to ensure, particularly in circumstances when he well knows what is required of him, that his professional body receives the payment it should,” said Lord Fraser.

He noted that the committee had been advised that, some 16 years previously, Mr Peet had been reprimanded after a conviction for the theft from his then employer of 500 Tenuate Dospan tablets, to which his wife had been addicted. He had been conditionally discharged for that offence; it had been said in mitigation that Mr Peet had been under considerable pressure from her at the time. The chairman said that matter was not of such seriousness as to alter its present decision.

What the committee had decided was to adjourn the inquiry for six months. If on resumption it was confirmed that Mr Peet had paid what was due to the Society, said the chairman, its sanction would be restricted to a reprimand.

When the hearing resumed on 18 November 2003, it was reported that the outstanding fees had been paid. Mr Peet was reprimanded.

Pharmacist who stole dihydrocodeine tablets given reprimand after evidence that no longer addicted

The case of a young pharmacist who took dihydrocodeine tablets from the pharmacy at which he worked to satisfy an addiction has been concluded with a reprimand by the Statutory Committee. The committee heard evidence that the pharmacist had, with support and treatment, been cleared of his drug dependency.

At its meetings on 23 April 2002 and 14 April 2003 the committee inquired into the case of Christopher Dotchin, of 166 Silver Lonnen, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear. A complaint had been received from the Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society alleging that Mr Dotchin had admitted having stolen a quantity of 30mg dihydrocodeine tablets from the pharmacy at which he was employed and having been addicted to dihydrocodeine. He had received a police adult caution in respect of the admitted theft.

At both hearings, Geoff Hudson, of Penningtons (solicitors) presented the facts of the case.

Geoffrey Knowles, of counsel, instructed by Burt Gibson Stainsby O'Neill (solicitors) represented Mr Dotchin, who was present on both dates.

At the 23 April 2002 hearing, the committee heard that Mr Dotchin had registered on 31 July 2000. He had obtained employment as pharmacist/manager at the Numark Pharmacy, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne. Shortly after Christmas of that year, his employer noticed that his standard of work began to drop, falling to an "alarming level". This change prompted the proprietor to

check pharmacy stock and he noticed a discrepancy in stocks of 30mg dihydrocodeine tablets. The police were asked to investigate; the stock was checked on 8 April 2001 and again on 3 May 2001. A discrepancy of 1,208 tablets was found over the 24-day period.

When Mr Dotchin was confronted about the matter and arrested on suspicion of theft, he admitted the theft and also that he had an addiction to dihydrocodeine. He was released on bail and on 6 July 2001 was given a police adult caution.

The committee was told that Mr Dotchin had had, and was continuing to co-operate in, treatment for addiction and that he was receiving support from a number of sources in overcoming his problem.

Serious matter

Giving the committee's decision, the chairman (Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC) said the complaint against Mr Dotchin had been established. It was a serious matter that such a significant quantity of dihydrocodeine tablets had been taken by a pharmacist from pharmacy in which he worked and used for his own addiction. That conduct was such as to render him unfit to be on the register. However, the committee would not make any direction at the present hearing, but would adjourn the case for a year.

Lord Fraser said it was encouraging that a young pharmacist who had a significant problem should have received invaluable support from almost all to whom he had turned — the police, the Society's inspector,

Newcastle NHS Trust's alcohol and drugs service at Plummer Court and, not least, his parents. The committee also noted with approval the support offered by Robert Sewell of Moss Pharmacy in providing him with employment and allowing him to build up that employment gradually.

In adjourning the case, the committee required Mr Dotchin to agree to the following conditions: first, that at the end of 12 months he would be clear of any drug taking, and had not taken drugs during that period; secondly, that he continued his treatment at Plummer Court and followed to the letter the recommendations of his psychiatrist; and thirdly, that he should remain in the employment of Moss Pharmacy throughout the 12 months or that, if he left that employment for any reason, the Society would be informed forthwith.

The chairman added that if there was any evidence of relapse into drug addiction during the 12 months the committee would reconvene the hearing and a stern view would be taken of Mr Dotchin's fitness to practise.

At the resumed hearing on 14 April 2003, the chairman, announcing the committee's decision, said: "When we resumed this hearing today we had before us a number of reports submitted to us and a fuller report from an inspector of the Society. They are all very positive in their conclusions and it is very clear to us that Mr Dotchin has not reverted to his dependence on drugs."

Mr Dotchin was reprimanded and the case was closed.

Restoration to register for man convicted of deception and theft

A Wolverhampton pharmacist who had been struck off for deception and theft from the NHS, for which he had been sentenced to six months' imprisonment (*PJ*, 10 June 2000, p876), has been allowed to have his name restored to the register.

At its meeting on 15 April 2003 the Statutory Committee heard an application for restoration by Samir Patel, of 41 Dudley Walk, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. The committee had ordered Mr Patel's name to be removed from the register in a decision on 8 December 1999.

Kristina Stern, of counsel, instructed by Penningtons (solicitors), appeared in order to present the facts of the case.

David Reissner, of Charles Russell (solicitors) represented Mr Patel, who was present at the hearing.

Giving the committee's decision, the chairman (Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC) said

that Mr Patel had been removed from the register following a substantial fraud on the NHS Prescription Pricing Authority, amounting to £14,531 in all. Lord Fraser's predecessor as chairman of the committee (Gary Flather, QC) had described this as a "colossal breach of trust", as indeed it was. The court at which Mr Patel had been convicted on nine counts and sentenced to six months' imprisonment had clearly taken a stern view of the offences, while noting his remorse and the fact that he had repaid the full amount.

It was also noted that he had assisted the police in their inquiries.

Hesitation

Mr Patel's references, both at the earlier hearing and the present one, noted that he was a doting father, religious and involved in charitable works. In spite of that, said the chair-

man, the committee had had some hesitation in agreeing to his restoration to the register. They were not overwhelmingly confident that he had wholly learnt the error of his ways.

Mr Patel was warned that, if ever he were to appear before the courts on comparable offences, the sentence of the court would be likely to be substantially more than six months. And if he were ever to appear before the committee again on such comparable matters, it was likely that he would be removed permanently from the register.

Mr Patel was advised to put in place, if he had not already done so, systems that could give no cause for suspicion that he might try at some point in the future again to cheat the pricing authority.

The committee directed that Mr Patel's name should be restored to the register.

DEATHS

Bailey On 8 April 2003, Vera Bailey, née Hart, MRPharmS, of 5 The Crescent, Green Lane, Mansfield, Nottingham NG18 4BL. Mrs Bailey registered in 1937.

Chahal On 24 October 2003, Sukhdev Singh Chahal, MRPharmS, of 254 Aldridge Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B74 2DS. Mr Chahal registered in 1996.

Davies On 20 November 2003, John Neville George Davies, MRPharmS, of "Fairways", Laleston, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan CF32 0HL. Mr Davies registered in 1944 and was a retired pharmacist and optician. He was an active participant in pharmacy circles in South Wales during his career.

Easton On 27 November 2003, Isabella Ruth Easton, of 37 Pittville Street, Edinburgh, Midlothian EH15 2BX. Mrs Easton registered in 1949 and retired from the register in 1999.

Elder On 13 November 2003, George Elder, FRPharmS, of 187 Craigcrook Road, Edinburgh EH4 7AZ. Mr Elder registered in 1949.

Gennings On 8 December 2003, Gillian Mary Gennings, née Garner, MRPharmS, of 18 Somervell Drive, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 7QG. Mrs Gennings registered in 1978 and worked at Guy's and the London Hospitals from 1977 to 1982. She worked in community pharmacy in the Fareham area from 1989 to 2000, stopping work with the onset of cancer.

Gillings On 30 November 2003, Kenneth James Gillings, FRPharmS, of "The Maples", 52 Orchard Road, Melbourn, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 6BB. Mr Gillings registered in 1948.

Hay On 13 November 2003, Robert Stirling Hay, MRPharmS, of 20 Barra Avenue, Wishaw, Lanarkshire ML2 8XN. Mr Hay registered in 1962.

Hayball On 8 November 2003, John Newton Hayball, MRPharmS, of 136 Mill Road, Cleethorpes, South Humberside DN35 8JD. Mr Hayball registered in 1938.

Landers On 10 November 2003, Eric Landers, MRPharmS, of Nut Tree Cottage, Nettlestead Road, Little Blakenham, Ipswich IP8 4LR. Mr Landers registered in 1935.

Marks On 21 November 2003, Joyce Agnes Marks, née Fuller, MRPharmS, of 36 Caroline Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 8QX. Mrs Marks registered in 1951.

Mooney On 9 December 2003, George Mooney, FRPharmS, of 10a Avon Buildings, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 1QS. Mr Mooney registered in 1942.

O'Keefe On 23 November 2003, Linda Ann O'Keefe, MRPharmS, of 86 Coventry Road, Warwick CV34 5HH. Mrs O'Keefe registered in 1974.

Panton On 27 November 2003, Norman Alexander Panton, of 631 King Street, Aberdeen AB2 1SA. Mr Panton registered in 1944 and retired from the register in 1987.

Partridge On 13 November 2003, Matthew Dominic Partridge, MRPharmS, of 10 Maple Road, Pelsall, Walsall, West Midlands WS3 4JJ. Mr Partridge registered in 1991.

Ross On 24 October 2003, Derek Ross, MRPharmS, of 21 Mill Close, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV11 6QD. Mr Ross registered in 1958.

Seedhouse On 30 September 2003, Ann Seedhouse, of Fourways Residential Home, Glen Road, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8RW. Miss Seedhouse registered in 1933 and retired from the register in 1999.

Simons On 30 November 2003, Frederick Miller Simons, FRPharmS, of 24 Oakfield Lane, Dartford DA1 2SW. Mr Simons registered in 1940.

Smith On 27 November 2003, Frederick John Smith, MRPharmS, of Flat 16, Adams House, Woodfield Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 6YA. Mr Smith registered in 1934.

Smithies On 30 September 2003, Gilbert Smithies, MRPharmS, of 1 Hannah Court, The Hudson, Wyke, Bradford BD12 8HZ. Mr Smithies registered in 1949.

Tompkins On 13 November 2003, Muriel Heap Tompkins, née Whalley, MRPharmS, of South View Cottage, 32 Drury Lane, Dore, Sheffield S17 3GG. Mrs Tompkins registered in 1928.

Watkinson On 27 November 2003, Robert Leslie Watkinson, MRPharmS, of "Northlea", School Lane, Pilling, Preston PR3 6HB. Mr Watkinson registered in 1946.

Wilkinson On 4 December 2003, Peter Wilkinson, MRPharmS, of "High Mount", 386 Coniscliffe Road, Darlington DL3 8AG. Mr Wilkinson registered in 1953.

Zamet Recently, Hirsch Hal Zamet, FRPharmS, of 11 Berkeley Court, Ravenscroft Avenue, London NW11 8BG. Mr Zamet registered in 1941.

TRIBUTES

May In a tribute to the late Josephine Barker May (*PJ*, 22 November 2003, p726), friends from her days at Liverpool school of pharmacy (1975–78) write: Josie, as she is better known to us, will be remembered as being quiet for the most part but when an opinion was required, being forthright and honest — she could be quite vocal.

Josie was highly focused on whatever she did and tackled obstacles with an energy and enthusiasm that knew no bounds. She worked hard at her studies, her research and the profession of pharmacy, but balanced these with her love of sport, animals and the countryside. She shared these interests with her husband and soul mate, Derek, to whom we extend our deepest sympathies.

As slight as she was, Josie was a powerful athlete, with running, swimming and cycling being her favourites. In 1983, she won the first British Triathlon Championships, held in Durham, and then in 1984 Josie ranked 12th female in the world at the Triathlon Championships in Nice. In 1993, she held both the British and European titles in the 1,500m masters, swimming for her age group.

The fondest memories we have will be the times we shared as students, with Josie being notably a student who possessed a car. It was an enviable car indeed — a Ford Capri! Though trendy for its day, it irritated her greatly that the petrol tank was so small and the engine so thirsty that the refuelling stops slowed down her journey.

In academia Josie's passion was for pharmaceutical chemistry and many will remember her big grin as she stood triumphant over the best set of crystals at the laboratory bench. It was this passion (or was it sport?) that was to take Josie to Loughborough University to study for her master's degree and then to Sunderland University, where she achieved her academic goal of a PhD.

Like all students we had a lot of fun, though Josie's hangover cure was as unique as she was. She would go down to the university pool before breakfast and swim a mile while the rest of us woke up and reached for the paracetamol.

It goes without saying the feelings of good times will endure, as will the memories of a dear and loyal friend. She will be greatly missed.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

The following are among recent additions to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's library in London. Books available for loan can be borrowed by members and by preregistration trainees and pharmacy students who have registered with the library. The loan period is 28 days. A loan may be renewed if the item is not required by another user. Details of all titles added to the library since 1991 can be found in the library's searchable online catalogue of publications (olib.rpsgb.org.uk)

Clinical pharmacy

■ Clinical pharmacy and therapeutics. 3rd ed. Walker R, Edwards C. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone; 2003.

■ Encyclopedia of clinical pharmacy. DiPiro JT. New York: Marcel Dekker; 2003.

■ Clinical pharmacy and therapeutics. 3rd ed. Walker R, Edwards C. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone; 2003.

Drug delivery

■ Drug administration via enteral feeding tubes: a guide for general practitioners and community pharmacists. British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. Derby: BAPEN; 2003.

■ Drug delivery systems. 2nd ed. Ranade VV, Hillinger MA. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press; 2004.

■ Transdermal and topical drug delivery. Williams AC. London: Pharmaceutical Press; 2003.

■ Modified-release drug delivery technology. Rathbone MJ, Hadgraft J, Roberts MS. New York: Marcel Dekker; 2003.

Drug interactions

■ Handbook of food-drug interactions. McCabe BJ, Frankel EH, Wolfe JJ. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press; 2003.

■ Medical pocket reference: drug-herb interactions. Sullivan L. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2003.

Health promotion

■ Promoting health at the community level. Easterling DV, Gallagher KM, Lodwick DG. Thousand Oaks: Sage; 2003.

■ Health promotion: disciplines and diversity. 2nd ed. Bunton R, Macdonald G. London: Routledge; 2002.

Law and ethics

■ Pharmacoethics: a problem based approach. Gettmann DA, Arneson D. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press; 2003.

■ Health care law. Montgomery J. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2003.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Communications to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society 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).

Dates of registration examinations for 2004

The dates for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's registration examination in 2004 will be Friday 25 June and Friday 24 September.

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).

Stability testing of pharmaceuticals

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is organising a two-day residential course on "Stability testing of pharmaceuticals" to be held at the Crown Plaza hotel, Cambridge, from 23 February 2004 (noon) to 25 February 2004 (after lunch).

The course is intended to provide a detailed appraisal of the rationale and techniques associated with stability evaluation of pharmaceuticals and related products.

The course will cover the criteria for product stability, problems associated with specific product types, new technology for stability assessment, and the application and limitations of stability test procedures. United Kingdom and international regulatory aspects will be discussed.

The course fee is £1,398.25 for members of the Society or the APS and £1,468.75 for others. The fee includes two nights' accommodation, all meals and refreshments, VAT, documentation and a CD-ROM with relevant reference sources.

Further details and registration forms can be obtained from Dr John Clements at the Society's headquarters (tel 020 7572 2261; e-mail science@rpsgb.org.uk) or can be downloaded from the science section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org.uk/science).

DIARY

Headquarters meetings

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

Thursday 15 January
Council Reserve Day. 9.30am.

Local meetings

The following are meetings of branches 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)

Monday 12 January
Nottingham "Getting started with continuing professional development" by Dr Peter Wilson (consultant on CPD, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). School of Pharmacy, Nottingham University. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Tuesday 13 January
Bolton "Obesity" by Dr Stephen Kreitzman and Valerie Beeson (Lipotrim). Education Centre, Royal Bolton Hospital, Farnworth. Buffet. 7.30 for 8pm.
Mid Glamorgan East Annual Christmas dinner. Cinnamon Tree Restaurant, Upper Boat, Treforest. 8pm.

Northern Scottish "Local research forum". Marriott Hotel, Culcabock Road, Inverness. Tea, coffee and sandwiches. 7.30pm.
Oxfordshire "Linking pharmacists with children's clinics" by Joy Dadswell (senior community nurse, Oxfordshire). George Pickering Postgraduate Centre, Level 3, the John Radcliffe, Headington. Light refreshments. 7.30 for 8pm.

Wednesday 14 January
Eastbourne "Pharmacy staff training in the 21st century" by Janet Flint (Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Sara Hampson Room, Postgraduate Centre, Eastbourne District General Hospital. 7.30pm.
Isle of Man "Enteral feeding" by Sarah Surgeon (Noble's Hospital). Keyll Darree, Noble's Hospital, Braddan. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.
West Cumberland Annual general meeting. Hundith Hill Hotel, near Cockermouth. 7.15 for 7.30pm. Followed by bar supper.
Wirral Annual general meeting, followed by "The Shipman inquiry" by Mike Beard (arresting police officer for the Shipman case). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Clatterbridge Hospital. Hot buffet. 7.15 for 8pm.

The Diary

Announcements of branch and regional meetings for the Diary column should reach *The Journal* by 1pm on the Tuesday before publication. Branch programme cards are welcome at the beginning of the season, provided that branches subsequently notify *The Journal* in good time about any programme changes and any essential meeting information that was not available when the card was printed.

Thursday 15 January
Glasgow and West of Scotland "Delivering gene therapies" by Professor Ijeoma Uchegbu (University of Strathclyde). McCance Lecture Theatre 1, McCance Building, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. 7.30 for 8pm.

Friday 16 January
Lanarkshire Quiz night. Hilton Strathclyde Hotel, Bellshill. 8pm.

Monday 19 January
Bromley "Osteopathy" by Michael Adams (lead osteopath, Eltham Health Clinic). Postgraduate Centre, Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup. Buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.
Slough "Chiropody today" by Alina Hartnett (state registered chiropodist). John Lister Postgraduate Centre, Wexham Park Hospital. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

PERSONAL

This column is intended for announcements of births, engagements, marriages, anniversaries, etc. The charge for an insertion is £20 for up to 25 words, and £8 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

Dhaliwal Harwinder (née Sandhu, ex-London School of Pharmacy 1991-94) and Deepk (ex-Surrey 1989-93) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Rhanika, born on 2 December 2003 (e-mail Harvy73@hotmail.com).