



Members vote “yes” on new Charter

The proposed new Charter for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has gained the support of a large majority of those voting in the Charter ballot. However, fewer than one in 10 members bothered to return their voting papers by the 20 August closing date.

The ballot was run by Electoral Reform Services, which distributed the ballot paper and explanatory notes in July. The number of ballot papers sent out was 46,272, of which only 4,319 — 9.3 per cent — were returned. The removal of 13 ballot papers that were blank or had been spoiled left a total of 4,306 valid votes. The number of respondents voting “yes” to the question “Do you approve the revised draft Charter?” was 3,636 (84.4 per cent); the number voting “no” was 670 (15.6 per cent).

The Society’s President, Nicholas Wood, said: “This important ballot has given all

pharmacists on the Society’s register the opportunity to vote on the draft Charter. This historic ‘Yes’ vote is very welcome and tells us that the profession is content with the Council’s agreed version.”

Mr Wood continued: “A new Charter is crucial for the profession’s future and will allow us to go forward as a strengthened organisation that is fit for the future. There remains much work to do but by achieving the ‘yes’ vote, I am confident that the Council can overcome recent difficulties and move forward in unity.”

The ballot results and the comments received from members will be presented to the Society’s Council on September 15, when it will decide whether to present the draft Charter to the Privy Council in its existing form or modify it in the light of the comments received.

This week

■ Charter “yes” vote

In the ballot on a new Charter for the Society, a large majority of voters showed support, although only a small proportion of members voted (p297).

■ CPD facilitators recruited

The Society has recruited a team of facilitators to support continuing professional development activity in the branches (p298).

■ Personal control

A Law and Ethics Bulletin item offers clarification on the meaning of “personal control” (p298).

■ Treasures of the Society

The London pharmacopoeia of 1618 is the subject of the first of an occasional series of articles on the treasures of the Society’s historical collections (p299).

Team of facilitators recruited to support branches’ CPD programmes

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has recruited 21 part-time continuing professional development (CPD) facilitators to support its branches in taking up a new role in CPD to help pharmacists better understand and manage their own CPD requirements.

In addition, two lead facilitators will act as liaison between the branch facilitators and the Society’s membership team.

By October 2004, the Society’s CPD framework will have been extended across Britain, and CPD is likely to be made mandatory in 2005. But feedback suggests that many pharmacists do not fully understand what CPD is or how it will affect their daily working lives, the Society says. Moreover, “some pharmacists are uncertain and apprehensive about CPD and have concerns about what constitutes an adequate CPD record and how their participation in CPD may affect their right to practise as a pharmacist”.

The CPD facilitators, who are all pharmacists, will each liaise with between four and eight of the Society’s 130 branches. Each branch will be able to run two facilitated meetings during the course of the year.

The meetings will use the Society’s new CPD toolkit. This includes a number of 30-



Lead CPD facilitators Anthony Trice and Sue Jones

minute modules allowing branches to add CPD support activity to their meetings. The modules can also be chosen to reflect the level of experience of individual branch members and have been designed to be interactive and enjoyable.

Ann Lewis, Secretary and Registrar, said: “The Council has responded to the wish of the branches to play a central role in supporting members’ CPD. This new programme brings together elements of the Society’s role as a membership organisation, educational and professional leadership body and regulator to cre-

ate a framework for branches to be at the heart of CPD. I hope that branches will enjoy taking forward this important programme of work.”

The newly appointed facilitators come from a range of pharmacy backgrounds and have a broad range of experience across different aspects of practice.

The two lead facilitators are Anthony Trice, a Hampshire-based former hospital pharmacist who is now a human resources lecturer, and Sue Jones, a former community pharmacist who is now a clinical pharmacy practice lecturer at King’s College London.

As part of a PhD thesis, Ms Jones is currently researching some of the issues surrounding CPD and the implications for the profession. She says: “In my research I have found that pharmacists may perceive the time taken to do their CPD as a barrier. Pharmacists are often unaware of how much CPD they actually undertake and the role of the facilitator to identify, with the branch, which elements of a specially designed toolkit would help their branch with this process.”

The branch facilitators will contact branch secretaries and nominated CPD links shortly to arrange to attend branch meetings from September onwards.

Law and ethics bulletin

Clarification on personal control

Following a recent ruling by the chairman of the Statutory Committee (*PJ*, 7 August, p203), the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Fitness to Practise and Legal Affairs Directorate has received queries seeking clarification.

All supplies of prescription-only medicines (POMs) and pharmacy (P) medicines from registered retail pharmacy premises must be made under the supervision of a pharmacist.

Sales of general sale list (GSL) medicines do not require supervision, but do require a pharmacist to be in personal control of the premises. Thus, if a pharmacist is not in personal control, for instance because he is late attending or he has left for the afternoon, no sales of medicines can be made, and this includes general sale list medicines.

The chairman's ruling was that if a pharmacist was not in personal control, the premises could remain open for trading as long as nothing requiring the presence of a pharmacist (ie, POMs, Ps

and GSLs) is sold. However, pharmacists should also be aware that the use of restricted titles such as "chemist" and "pharmacy" can only be used in connection with retail sales of any goods where they are being sold from registered retail pharmacy premises under the personal control of a pharmacist. Therefore, if restricted titles are used and a pharmacist has to leave the premises, the safest option may be to close the pharmacy premises. Where the pharmacy is in contract with a primary care trust to provide NHS services, the PCT should be contacted for advice.

Ian Wong to receive Conference practice research medal for 2004

The 2004 British Pharmaceutical Conference practice research medal is to be awarded to Ian Chi Kei Wong, director of the Centre for Paediatric Pharmacy Research, in recognition of his work on the contribution of pharmacy practice to the care of children.

The Centre for Paediatric Pharmacy Research, based at the University of London School of Pharmacy, is a collaborative venture of the school with the Institute of Child Health of University College London and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust. It carries out research into the formulation, delivery, monitoring and use of paediatric medicines and also studies ways of optimising the use of medicines in children.

The practice research medal recognises individuals aged up to 45 years who have made a significant contribution to the field of pharmacy practice research and have the potential to become a leader in their field. Dr Wong will receive his award, together with a cheque for £1,000, on 28 September during



Ian Wong: pharmacy practice research to improve medicines use in children

the conference, and will give an address on "Pharmacy practice: improving medicines use in children". The award is sponsored by *Chemist & Druggist* magazine.

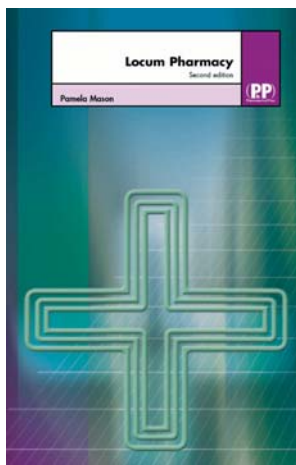
The chairman of the British Pharmaceutical Conference pharmacy practice research adjudicating panel, James McElnay (professor of pharmacy practice, Queen's University Belfast), said: "I am delighted that Ian is this year's medal winner. Research on medicines in children is a very important area as is borne out by the recent publication of 'Safer and better medicines for children' by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and the announcement last week by Lord Warner of a raft on new initiatives in this area, including a new paediatric research network. I very much look forward to the lecture."

This year's British Pharmaceutical Conference takes place at the Manchester International Convention Centre from 27 to 29 September.

Expanded edition of guide to working as a locum pharmacist

A new, expanded edition of a guide for locum pharmacists is now available from the Pharmaceutical Press (the publishing arm of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society).

'Locum pharmacy: A survival guide', by pharmacy consultant Pamela Mason, is the only book available on this subject. It is designed to provide practical information essential for an efficient, confident locum. The topics covered in the new second edition include preparing to become a locum, how to get



work, what to expect in a community pharmacy and how to cope with financial matters. New chapters cover hospital pharmacy and locum work overseas. Lists of useful addresses and recommended reading are also included.

The 152-page paperback book costs £12.95. Orders can be placed with Pharmaceutical Press Customer Services (tel 01491 829272; fax 01491 829292; e-mail rpsgb@cabl.org) or through the Pharmaceutical Press website (www.pharmpress.com).

Pharmacy in the future

The "Pharmacy in the future" website (www.pharmacyinthefuture.org.uk) is designed to help pharmacists meet the challenges of the NHS modernisation agenda and the NHS pharmacy programme. The site is supported by the Department of Health and has input from many pharmacy organisations. It is hosted on the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's website (www.rpsgb.org).

The site can connect pharmacists with a wealth of information about how the modernisation programme is being taken forward.

It also has links to many other websites with the aim of providing pharmacists with information they need to be part of the profession's future.

Pharmaceutical Press books to be sold from the Society's library

Visitors to the library at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's London headquarters will from next week be able to purchase books published by the Society's publications arm, the Pharmaceutical Press.

As from 1 September, the full range of Pharmaceutical Press printed books will be available to review and to purchase during library opening hours (9am to 5pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 10am to 5.45pm on Thursdays). Payment can be made by cash, cheque, credit card (Visa or Mastercard), or debit card (Delta or Maestro).

The Pharmaceutical Press catalogue currently includes nearly 70 books.

The Society's head of information, Roy Allcorn, said: "This service has been reintro-

duced to provide visitors to the Society with a convenient way to purchase books. If demand dictates, the Society's library will consider stocking other publications that are not readily available in the London area."

Further information, including stock availability, is available from the Society's library on 020 7572 2300.

The library also sells merchandise produced for the Society's museum. This includes replicas of three ceramic jars from the museum collections — a 19th century glazed earthenware show jar for leeches, a storage jar for candied orange peel and a syrup jar for solutive syrup of rose with agaric — and postcards and greeting cards illustrated with images from the museum collections. Also available is merchandise from the British

Society for the History of Pharmacy in the form of a range of bone china mugs illustrated with medicinal plants and coaster sets bearing the BSHP logo.

Enquiries about postal sales of Pharmaceutical Press publications and requests for copies of the catalogue should be addressed to Customer Services, Pharmaceutical Press, PO Box 151, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8QU (tel 01491 829272; fax 01491 829 292; e-mail rpsgb@cabi.org). Publications can also be ordered online from the Pharmaceutical Press website (www.pharmpress.com), which includes an online catalogue giving a detailed description and content list for each book.

Museum merchandise may be purchased by mail order direct from the museum (tel 020 7572 2210; e-mail museum@rpsgb.org).

Treasures of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Collections

Pharmacopoeia Londinensis 1618 (the London pharmacopoeia)

The project to produce a pharmacopoeia for all London apothecaries was first raised by the Royal College of Physicians in 1585. Although there are further occasional references to it in the archives of the Royal College it is not until 1614 that progress appeared to have been made and, by 1617 the pharmacopoeia was "on the point of completion".

The Pharmacopoeia Londinensis appeared on 7 May 1618 with a dedication by the royal physician Sir Theodore Turguet de Mayerne and a preface that refers to the work as a formulary for the citizens of London. However, it was a Royal Proclamation that led to it becoming recognised as Europe's first national pharmacopoeia. The proclamation declared the pharmacopoeia to apply to "all and singular apothecaries of this our Realme of England or the dominions thereof".

The pharmacopoeia contains 712 compound remedies arranged by class into waters, ointments, lozenges, etc. At the rear there is a list of 680 crude drugs used in these remedies. The list of crude drugs is arranged by origin into plants (roots, leaves, etc), animals and animal parts, salts and metals. The sources for the formulae in the pharmacopoeia were varied and included Galen and Avicenna as well as members of the Royal College including Turguet de Mayerne.

Despite the claim on publication that the pharmacopoeia was "now perfected" it was withdrawn within a few months. The official reason given by the Royal



Frontispiece of the Pharmacopoeia Londinensis in the Society's collection

Society of Physicians was that it had been produced without authorisation by an over eager printer. This explanation has been challenged by historians ever since and comparison of the May edition with the December replacement seems to suggest more fundamental changes than just to correct a printer's error.

The replacement for the withdrawn May 1618 edition appeared in December

of the same year. The new edition contained 963 compound remedies compared to 712 in the earlier version and 1,190 crude drugs instead of the 680 in May. In addition the list of crude drugs was moved from the back to the front.

This, in addition to other changes, has led some historians to argue that the two versions are fundamentally different and that the withdrawal of the May edition was not down solely to an over enthusiastic printer. Indeed one historian, the American George Urdang, has gone as far as to argue that the changes between the May and December versions were the result of a power struggle within the Royal College with the younger members gaining the upper hand. Another suggestion is that the earlier version was rushed out to help with trade protection. Whatever the truth, the December version is regarded as the true "first" edition and, as Melvin Earles says, is "the basis for the official English materia medica until the reforms of the 18th century".

The frontispiece shown here is from the December 1618 edition held in the Society's library.

The library holds over 60,000 books. Many such as this treasure cover the origins of pharmacy. A contemporary collection covers all aspects of pharmacy, pharmacy practice, and related subjects. The collection can be searched on the online catalogue (<http://olib.rpsgb.org.uk>) and many items are available for loan to members.

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).

Tableting technology

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society, in partnership with the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, is organising a two-and-a-half-day residential course on "Tableting technology for the pharmaceutical industry", to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cambridge, from Monday 22 November (10.30am) to Wednesday 24 November (3pm).

The course will provide intensive study on the formulation, production and drug-release characteristics of pharmaceutical tablets. It will cover the basic concepts of equipment selection, granulation and end-point determination, formulation optimisation and prediction, in-process monitoring, official and non-official dissolution tests and film coating. It will also deal with development pharmaceuticals for registration.

The course is designed to be applicable to the day-to-day problems of tableting, linked to a sound theoretical knowledge of the principles involved. It is aimed at graduates and technical staff in the field of formulation development or production of tablets who have not previously worked in these areas and who require an intensive introduction to tableting and the associated processes.

The course fee is £1,457 for members of the Society or the academy and £1,527.50 for others. The fee includes two nights' accommodation, meals and refreshments, a welcome reception and a social programme. Participants also receive a resource pack with full course documentation and a CD-ROM.

Further information is available from Judy Callanan at the Society's headquarters (tel 020 7572 2261; e-mail science@rpsgb.org).

DEATHS

Grey On 27 July, George Grey, MRPharmS, of 1 Laurel Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 0UG. Mr Grey registered in 1932.

Limb On 17 July, Joan Limb, MRPharmS, of 13 Avenue Road, Normoss, Blackpool, Lancashire FY3 7SG. Mrs Limb registered in 1939 (see Tribute, Column 3).

TRIBUTES

Court In a tribute to the late William Edward Court (*PJ*, 7 August, p205), EDWARD MALLINSON writes: Bill Court and I started at Bradford University on the same day, he as reader and head of the department of pharmacognosy and I as a mere undergraduate. Although our relationship at first was one of teacher-student, it developed to one of friendship when he became mentor and supervisor for my final year project studying the alkaloids of *Ranunculus acris*. His passion for pharmacognosy was infective and my interest in the subject, which still remains after more than 30 years, is testament to his enthusiasm and ability to impart that to others.

Bill was an active member of the Bradford branch of the Society and we met regularly at branch meetings. He had been secretary of a previous branch and was an invaluable source of advice to someone like me starting out as a branch officer not long after leaving university. That advice was always freely given and usually accompanied by some anecdote or other. Even when I moved north in the late 1970s we continued to keep in touch and usually met either at the branch representatives' meetings or at the British Pharmaceutical Conference for the History of Pharmacy session.

In latter years Bill was unable to attend the Conference, but we kept in touch at Christmas with the usual card and letter. His death marks the end of an era for me, but I shall always remember the sight of Bill and the late "Tommy" Wallis (an external examiner at Bradford in the late 1960s and early 1970s) ambling arm in arm towards the pharmacognosy laboratories. This epitomised the new and the old in perfect harmony. He will be missed by all who knew and respected him. My sympathies go to his wife Mai and family.

Limb In a tribute to the late Joan Limb (see Column 1), JOAN ALDERSON writes: Joan Limb registered in July 1939 and only came off the Register in January of this year. After suffering a slight stroke at the age of 82, four years ago, she was reluctantly persuaded to give up her locum duties but remained active, attending meetings and insisted on driving herself to St Albans to visit her daughter until just before Christmas, which was typical of her character.

She was in business with her late husband Maurice in Normoss for many years. Both were committee members of the Blackpool and Fylde branch of the Society, both

serving two terms of office as branch chairman. They were on the local conference committee in 1949 and 1967 when the British Pharmaceutical Conference was held in Blackpool, and in 1967 Joan was chairman of the ladies conference committee organising the ladies' excursions, which were a great feature in those days. Joan remained on the branch committee until the branch merged with Preston a few years ago to form the Central Lancashire branch. She was a founder member of the Blackpool branch of the National Association of Women Pharmacists in 1953, serving as a committee member and terms of office over the years.

She had many interests outside pharmacy, being a member of the Mothers' Union at St John's Parish Church in Blackpool and being involved in many parish activities. She was a Soroptomist, a member of a sewing circle and in 1986 accepted the invitation of the late Lillian Anderson to act as her Mayoress for the Borough of Wyre.

Joan leaves a son and daughter and five grandchildren and we offer our sympathy to Michael and Christine in their loss.

She had a great circle of friends and will be sadly missed, especially by our group of friends in NAWP, the girls she worked with as a locum and by me, a friend for over 50 years.

DIARY

Local meetings

Events listed below 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)

Thursday 2 September

Hounslow "The Medicines Management Co-operative" by Karen Carruthers (project facilitator, National Prescribing Centre). Postgraduate Centre, West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

PERSONAL

This column is 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

Stembridge Mark (ex-Manchester 1992-95) and Annette are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Anna Daisy on 13 August 2004. A sister for William.

Marriages

Oxley-Trinder Anthony and Julia are delighted to announce their recent marriage. Now at 41 Grosvenor Close, Glen Parva, Leicester.