



Review group seeks members' views on Society and devolution

Members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society are being urged to give their views on how the organisation should adapt and evolve to meet the political and social challenges brought about by devolution in Scotland and Wales.

A consultation document, published in *The Pharmaceutical Journal* this week (p543), asks for members' general views on devolution, as well as their specific ideas on how the Society should strengthen itself to best meet the needs of pharmacists and their patients following devolution.

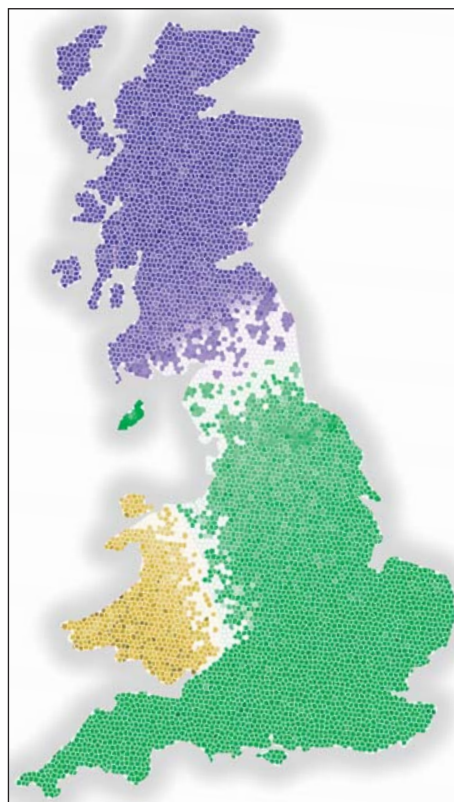
The consultation document has been drawn up by the Devolution Review Group, which was set up by the Society's Council in February. The 12-strong group, chaired by Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, is examining the issues surrounding devolution in detail and will report back to Council in early 2005 with its recommendations.

The document begins by setting out the background to the review and, to help members respond, sets out 20 main functions of the Society, with examples of the types of activity that come under each function. It goes on to ask six specific questions about devolution.

The first question is a general one about how the Society should relate to its members and the pharmacy profession in the three home countries in its three roles of professional body, regulator and public voice of pharmacy. The second question relates to the formulation of Society policies for England, Scotland and Wales as well as for Britain and the acceptability of implementing a Society policy differently in England, Scotland and Wales.

Another question concerns the possibility of changing the role, remit and membership of the Society's Scottish Executive and Welsh Executive to reflect devolution. The other three questions relate to the specific topics of education policy, European issues and disciplinary hearings.

Michele Savage, the Society's project manager for the devolution review said: "As part of its reform programme, the Society now needs to consider a framework that will reflect devolution in Scotland and Wales including a review of function, structures and ways of working and will include the flexibility to extend to any future devolved administration



in England. This is truly about shaping the Society's future and the Devolution Review Group needs the views of as many Society members as possible to help formulate its recommendations for the way forward."

Members have until 20 November to respond to the consultation.

As well as seeking individual pharmacists' views through this document, the review group is consulting representatives of pharmacy bodies in Wales and Scotland. It is also planning to take further evidence from some of the key stakeholders groups at meetings in Edinburgh on 26 October and Cardiff on 8 and 9 November. These meetings are open to members of the Society. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Michele Savage (tel 020 7572 2547; e-mail michele.savage@rpsgb.org).

A further consultation document is to go out to a wider group of organisations and bodies outside pharmacy, so that the review group can learn about their views of devolution and how they have managed the changes it has brought about.

This week

Views sought on devolution

The Society's Devolution Review Group is seeking members' views on how the organisation should evolve to meet the political and social challenges brought about by devolution in Scotland and Wales (p541); consultation document (pp543-544).

Offer on new Martindale

A 15 per cent discount is available to early purchasers of the new 34th edition of Martindale (p542).

Early booking for BPC 2005

Booking has already opened for the 2005 British Pharmaceutical Conference, with discounts of up to 40 per cent for bookings made before the end of this year (p545).

Society appoints a new head of professional ethics

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has appointed Lynsey Balmer to the position of head of professional ethics within its Practice and Quality Improvement Directorate.

A graduate of the Strathclyde school of pharmacy, Ms Balmer joined the Society's legal advisory service two years ago after previously working in community pharmacy in Glasgow and Buckinghamshire. Her advisory service role involved providing guidance to pharmacists and other health professionals on the legislation surrounding the practice of pharmacy as well as the Society's Code of Ethics.

For much of this year Ms Balmer has been involved in the Society's work for the Shipman Inquiry, preparing submissions for the Stage 3 and 4 seminars, providing secretariat support to the Society's Shipman Inquiry working group and representing the Society at the Department of Health work groups.

Speaking of her appointment Ms Balmer said: "I am very pleased to have the opportunity to undertake this important role and I'm looking forward to the challenges it will bring. My new role will involve reviewing the Code of Ethics in light of changes within the profession as well as advising on and promoting ethics, values and standards to the profession."

As head of professional ethics, Ms Balmer reports to David Pruce, the Society's Director of Practice and Quality Improvement.

Discount offer on new 34th edition of Martindale

A new edition of Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference is now available from the Pharmaceutical Press — the publishing arm of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society — with its price reduced by about 15 per cent for orders placed before 30 October.

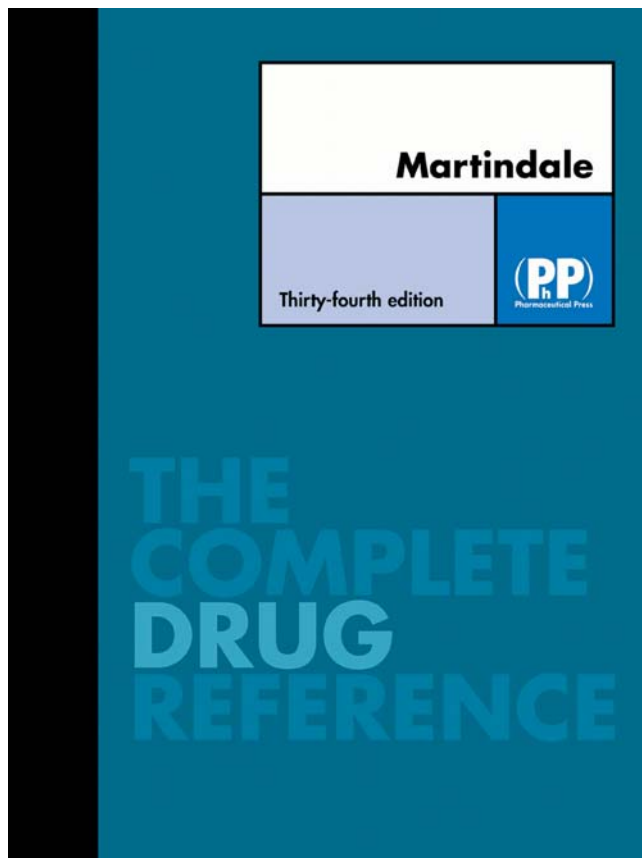
The new edition is the 34th in Martindale's 120-year history. The book's aim is to provide reliable, unbiased and independently evaluated information on drugs and medicines used throughout the world — including veterinary medicines, herbal substances and investigational drugs, plus other compounds used in medicine, pharmaceutical excipients and toxic substances.

The new edition has 2,750 pages — an increase of more than 10 per cent on the 33rd edition. Every existing entry has been re-evaluated and more than 400 new drugs have been added.

Part 1 of the new edition includes 4,418 monographs on drugs and ancillary substances — 125 more than in the previous edition. They are arranged in 51 chapters that bring together monographs on drugs and groups of drugs that have similar uses or actions.

Part 2 contains a further 926 monographs on supplementary drugs and other substances — an increase of 74 on the 33rd edition. They include monographs on drugs not easily classified, on herbals and on drugs no longer used clinically but still of interest. There are also monographs on toxic substances the effects of which may require drug therapy.

Part 3 contains brief information on proprietary products. The coverage has been expanded to 32 countries, and now includes Argentina, Chile, Greece, India and Malaysia. The book concludes with a directory of



manufacturers, containing some 9,500 entries (compared with 7,800 in the previous edition), and an exhaustive general index.

The book is priced at £275, but until 30 October it can be ordered for £240. Discounts are also available on the electronic forms of the book.

The CD-ROM version for single users is also reduced from £275 to £240 but attracts VAT on top of that price.

The combination of book and CD-ROM, priced at £380 plus VAT, is on offer at £340 plus VAT.

Information about electronic versions of Martindale for intranets and small networks

is available from the Pharmaceutical Press website (www.pharmpress.com), which also explains how to find out about pricing for networks, consortia and group deals and about integrating the content of Martindale within other databases.

The Pharmaceutical Press website also allows visitors to see sample Martindale pages and a list of the contents, to view a demonstration of the electronic version and to access user notes for the current electronic version.

Those wishing to buy individual copies of the new edition should contact Pharmaceutical Press customer services (tel 01491 829 272). Bulk discount enquiries should be addressed to Paul Podhorski (paul.podhorski@rpsgb.org).

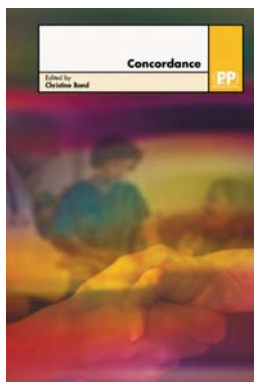
Information about pricing for networks, consortia and group deals, and further information regarding the integration of content within pharmacy or clinical systems or other databases, can be obtained from Peter Goacher (peter.goacher@rpsgb.org).

Martindale is also available online as part of MedicinesComplete, for which free online trials are available. MedicinesComplete is a new online library service for health care professionals that houses a range of pharmacy, pharmaceutical and health care databases on a common platform with an integrated search facility. Subscribers can pick and mix, choosing the publication that best suits their needs from a list that includes Martindale, the British National Formulary, Stockley's Drug Interactions, Herbal Medicines, Pharmaceutical Excipients, Dietary Supplements and Clarke's Analysis of Drugs and Poisons (see *PJ*, 3 July, p29, and www.medicinescomplete.com).

New book on concordance published

A new book on concordance in medicine-taking is now available from the Pharmaceutical Press (the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's publishing arm).

'Concordance: a partnership in medicine-taking' gives an overview of the concept of concordance as well as describing the implications for practice and patient care. Edited by Christine Bond, professor of primary care (pharmacy) at the School of Medicine, University



of Aberdeen, the book has been written by a multidisciplinary team. It is aimed at health care professionals, academics and students.

The 208-page hardback book costs £34.95. Orders can be placed with Pharmaceutical Press Customer Services (tel 01491 829272; fax 01491 829292; e-mail rpsgb@cabi.org) or through the Pharmaceutical Press website (www.pharmpress.com).

A4 certificates

At the request of members performing locum duties, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has made available an A4-size registration certificate. Any member wishing to take advantage of this facility should write to the Society enclosing their current registration certificate together with a fee of £10.

It is a requirement of the Medicines Act 1968 that the certificate of registration should be displayed at the premises at which the pharmacist is working. Pharmacists are reminded that the possession of a membership card does not replace the display of a registration certificate.

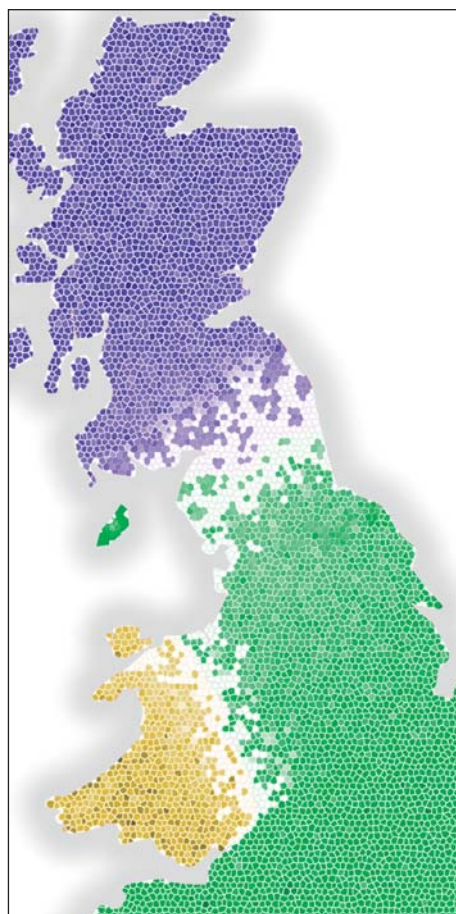
Views sought on Society and devolution

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Devolution Review Group wants to know what pharmacists think about devolution and how the Society should operate in the light of devolution. Its consultation document, set out below, gives the background to the review and poses six specific questions

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is the professional and regulatory body for pharmacists in Great Britain. The Society is constituted under its Royal Charter. As a professional body, the Society seeks to lead and develop the profession. As a regulator, the Society is responsible for assuring the competence and fitness to practise of pharmacists, setting standards for education and practice, guiding pharmacists towards excellence and dealing with the small number who fall short of acceptable standards. Members of the Society are those persons registered as pharmaceutical chemists under the Pharmacy Act 1954. Under the Act, the Society maintains the register of pharmacists and exercises professional discipline through the Statutory Committee.

The Society combines its regulatory and professional functions within a statutory enforcement role. It has law enforcement duties under the Medicines Act 1968, the Animal Health and Welfare Act 1984 and the Poisons Act 1972.

The Council is the governing body of the Society. The Council currently comprises 21 elected pharmacists and three lay members, appointed by the Privy Council. In May 2002, the Council agreed that the Society should retain its integrated regulatory and professional roles within a reformed organisation, meeting modern regulatory require-



ments. Within this framework, the Society's principal duties would remain those of regulating, developing and leading the profession of pharmacy firmly within the context of the public benefit.

As part of its reform programme, the Society now needs to consider a framework that will reflect devolution in Scotland and Wales, including a review of function, structures and ways of working, and will include the flexibility to extend to any future devolved administration in England. The Society's Council agreed that a review group should be established to examine the issues surrounding devolution in more detail and report back to the Council in early 2005 with its recommendations. The composition of the review group is set out in Panel 1.

As an important part of the review process, the Devolution Review Group wishes to consult the membership and the pharmacy profession to ascertain their views on devolution and how they would like to see the Society operate in the light of devolution.

The Society derives its functions (powers and responsibilities) from the Royal Charter and from legislation including the Pharmacy Act 1954, the Poisons Act 1972 and the Medicines Act 1968. The key functions of the Society can broadly be divided into 20 areas and it is helpful for this consultation document to outline them and

Panel 1: Membership of the Devolution Review Group

The members of the Council's Devolution Review Group are as follows:

- **Lord Fraser of Carmyllie** (chairman)
- **Ann Lewis**, Secretary and Registrar
- **Mair Davies**, chairman of the Welsh Executive
- **Digby Emson**, member of Council
- **Alison Ewing**, member of Council
- **Gill Hawksworth**, immediate past President of the Society
- **Maurice Hickey**, member of Council
- **Paul Jervis**, constitutional expert
- **Colin Ranshaw**, member of the Welsh Executive
- **Andrea Robinson**, immediate past chairman of the Welsh Executive
- **David Thomson**, immediate past chairman of the Scottish Executive
- **Angela Timoney**, chairman of the Scottish Executive

Panel 2: The Devolution Review Group's questions

Question 1 In the light of devolution, how should the Society relate to its members and the pharmacy profession in England, Scotland and Wales, in its role:

- As the professional body for pharmacists?
- As regulator of the pharmacy profession?
- As the public voice of the pharmacy profession?

Question 2 Currently, policy is agreed by Council with input from the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Executive. One of the main roles of the Scottish Executive and Welsh Executive is to implement the Council's policy.

How should policy be formulated for England, Scotland, Wales and Great Britain?

Is it acceptable that the same Society policy is implemented differently in England, Wales and Scotland in response to differing national requirements?

Question 3 Is there a need to reflect the diversity of social policy in England, Scotland and Wales in the

education policy of the Society? If so, how should this be done?

Question 4 Proposals for European legislation, and the way that legislation is implemented may have different policy consequences in England, Wales and Scotland. When addressing European issues how should the Society ensure the views of England, Scotland and Wales are appropriately represented?

Question 5 Should the role, remit and membership of the Scottish Executive and Welsh Executive or their successors change to reflect devolution? If so, in what way?

Question 6 As the Society operates at the moment all disciplinary cases are heard in London. The policy objective has been to ensure consistency in the enforcement of professional standards. It has been suggested that cases should be heard close to where they originate for either legal or language reasons. What would be the disadvantages and advantages of hearing cases in the country of origin?

Panel 3: The Society's key functions, with some examples of activities

- 1. Controlling entry to the profession**
 - Maintenance of registers of pharmacists and premises
- 2. Preregistration education**
 - Accreditation of degree courses
 - Accreditation of preregistration training
 - Administering and monitoring progression of trainees
- 3. Controlling registration**
 - Ensuring compliance with legislative requirements of pharmacists.
 - Ensuring compliance with legislative requirements for registration of premises
- 4. Training**
 - Standards for under graduate training
 - Standards for training for technicians
- 5. Provide strategic leadership for the profession**
 - Creating vision and mission for the Society
 - Identifying strategic objectives
 - Policy formulation
- 6. Promote and represent the profession**
 - Talking to decision-makers and opinion-formers
 - Fostering public awareness of the profession
 - Responding to consultations
 - Organising events
- 7. Setting and enforcing standards of practice**
 - Inspection
 - Legal and ethical advisory service
 - Production of high level principles
 - Production of guidance and standards
- 8. Setting and enforcing educational standards**
 - Accrediting courses for supplementary prescribing
 - Providing guidance and advice
- 9. Promoting good practice**
 - Providing guidance and advice on legal and ethical issues
 - Quality assurance
- 10. Continuing professional development**
 - Systems for planning and monitoring CPD
 - Providing guidance and advice
- 11. Assessing professional competence**
- 12. Revalidation**
 - (Likely to be introduced in the future)
- 13. Providing support for improvement**
 - Supporting development through branch network
 - Providing guidance and advice
- 14. Dealing with poor performance**
 - Acting as prosecuting authority
 - Dealing with complaints
- 5. Removal from the register**
 - Statutory Committee
- 16. Advise government, other professions and the public**
 - Public affairs programme.
 - Briefing key opinion formers
 - Collaborative working with other organisations.
- 17. Promote scholarship, research and the advance of knowledge**
 - Research studentship awards
 - Providing library and information services
 - Publishing professional and learned books and journals
- 18. Foster collaboration with other relevant bodies**
 - Working with other professional and regulatory bodies
 - Patient/public representative organisations
- 19. Promote pharmacy as a career**
 - Promoting and funding education
- 20. Provide a benevolent function for members**
 - Listening Friends
 - Pastoral care
 - Benevolent Fund

give a brief example of the type of activity that comes under each key function (see Panel 3, above).

What do you think?

The review group would like your opinion on six questions, which are set out in Panel 2 on p543).

When addressing these questions it may be helpful to categorise the Society's key functions as follows:

- **Unitary** Those functions that are better performed at a GB level
- **Hybrid** Functions that have elements that need to be performed at GB level but have other elements that may be better carried out at national level
- **National** Functions that are best performed at a national (English, Scottish or Welsh) level

- **Neutral** Functions that could be performed either at GB or national level

In answering these questions, the issue of implementation should be addressed, having due regard to the Royal Charter and the obligations placed on the Society by statute, and the provisions of the Scotland Act 1998, and the Government of Wales Act 1998.

It would be helpful to the group if all questions could be considered within the context of suitability, feasibility and acceptability (Appendix A)

The Health Act 1999 contains important limitations on what changes may be achieved through an Order under Section 60 of that Act. Those limitations are summarised in Appendix B. Proposals which seek change beyond that which might be accommodated within a Section 60 Order will require new primary legislation.

All submissions will be considered by the Devolution Review Group, which may request that further particulars of any submission be given either in writing or by oral evidence.

Appendix A

- **Suitability** Does the proposed solution meet the needs of the Society and its members?
- **Feasibility** Is the proposed solution likely to work in practice and how difficult will it be to achieve?
- **Acceptability** Will the proposal be acceptable to the Society's members and its other key stakeholders?

Appendix B

An Order under Section 60 of the Health Act 1999 may not abolish the Society, nor may it provide for the following functions to be exercised by any person other than the Society or any of its committees or officers:

- Keeping the register of members admitted to practice
- Determining standards of education and training for admission to practice
- Giving advice about standards of conduct and performance
- Administering procedures (including making rules) relating to misconduct, unfitness to practise and similar matters

Submission of evidence to the devolution review

Submissions should be made by e-mail to devolution@rpsgb.org or in writing to Michele Savage, Project Manager, Devolution Review, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN by 20 November 2004.

A version of the consultation document can also be downloaded from the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org.uk/devolution).

A Welsh language version is also available. *Mae fersiwn Cymraeg o'r ddogfen ar gael.*

The Devolution Review Group needs your views to help formulate its recommendations to the Society's Council. Please take the time to help to shape the Society's future.

Two to share practice research awards totalling £50,000

The grant of two pharmacy practice research awards for 2004 with a total value of £50,000 has been announced by the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust — the independent body established by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in 1999 to promote practice research.

Wendy Gidman from the University of Manchester has been awarded the Sir Hugh Linstead Fellowship, which is funded by the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust. She will receive £35,500 to investigate the working patterns of female community pharmacists over the age of 30.

Ms Gidman said: "Current pharmacist shortages are a cause for concern. Part-time working is common in community pharmacy, particularly among female pharmacists over the age of 30. This study will find out more about the factors influencing female pharmacists' working practices. This information will help policy makers to plan and provide pharmacy services in the future."

Dyfrig Hughes, from the Centre for the Economics of Health at the University of Wales, has been awarded the Galen award of £10,000, topped up to £14,500 by additional funding from the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust.

Dr Hughes is to investigate the factors that influence whether people visit a GP or a community pharmacist for the management of minor ailments. He says that the initial aim is to identify the key attributes relevant to the patient's decision. The technique of "discrete choice experiment" will then be used to quantify the impact of each attribute (such as cost and waiting time) on patients' choice.

Dr Hughes said: "This will allow us to get a better picture of why patients seek pharmacist advice as opposed to GP advice (or vice versa), which is important for designing minor ailment schemes."

Further information on the 2004 awards or previous research funded through the practice research awards is available from Zoe Whittington, research manager, at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's London headquarters (tel 020 7572 2276; e-mail zoe.whittington@rpsgb.org).

Details of the pharmacy practice research awards can be found on the practice research pages of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/pracres). The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust is to announce details of the application process for the 2005 practice research awards in January 2005. Further information about the trust can be obtained from Kerry Crabb at the Society's headquarters (tel 020 7572 2275; e-mail kerry.crabb@rpsgb.org).

Discount booking opens for BPC 2005

Booking has already opened for the 2005 British Pharmaceutical Conference, with discounts of up to 40 per cent for those booking before the end of this year.

BPC 2005 will return to the Manchester International Convention Centre from Monday 26 September to Wednesday 28 September 2005. The theme of the conference will be "A common vision for health; linking science with practice", with sessions exploring the ways in which the various disciplines can work together to provide an en-

vironment where closer co-operation and greater understanding will be promoted.

A special earlybird booking form entitles delegates to save up to 40 per cent if they book before 31 December. Copies can be obtained from the conference organiser, Health Links (tel 0121 248 3399) or can be downloaded from the BPC 2005 website (www.bpc2005.org). Further information about BPC 2005, including provisional programme information, is also available from both sources.

Visitor numbers up 10 per cent at BPC 2004

Figures for this year's British Pharmaceutical Conference, held last week in Manchester, showed a 10 per cent rise in visitor numbers as well as a record number of exhibitors.

Over its three days, the conference attracted a total of 1,258 participants. Among them were 183 full-time students, of whom 132 had taken advantage of the special offer enabling students to attend on the Wednesday for just £5.

Gill Hawksworth, chairman of the Society's Conference Committee said: "This year's BPC has been a fantastic success with visitor numbers up and a record number of

exhibitors in attendance." She said that the success was all due to the hard work of the conference team, Science Chairman Ruth Duncan and the previous Conference Committee chairman, Wally Dove.

She added: "There was a real buzz among delegates about the quality of the exhibition and the sessions and there was very positive feedback about the whole event including the new venue, which we will be revisiting next year. It brought together science and practice in many ways, paving the way for next year's conference, 'Linking science with practice', which we have already started to plan."

BPC 2004 attracts positive media coverage

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's public relations unit says that this year's British Pharmaceutical Conference resulted in more positive national and local media coverage than ever before.

Interviews and reports appeared in most major national daily newspapers, on television, on several national radio stations and regional media across England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales during the conference, held at the Manchester International Convention Centre from 27 to 29 September 2004.

Media covered included an *Observer* feature on research by the Conference Science Chairman, Ruth Duncan, into nanomedicines and how they are expected to bring significant advances in diagnosing and treating disease (*PJ*, 2 October, p485).

Peter Houghton, of the Department of Pharmacy, King's College London, appeared live on Sky television talking about his research that confirms the benefits of commonly used traditional remedies for a range of illnesses, including cancer, offering a scientific justification for their use. This included the curry-leaf tree (*Murraya koenigii*), a traditional Indian plant that has been shown to have potential antidiabetic activity.

Other popular stories picked up by the media included research from the School of Pharmacy, University of London, that showed

how pine cones may form a new line of attack against methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infection.

Research from the School of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Portsmouth revealed how the active ingredients of soya could be turned into a useful medicine that may help to beat breast cancer.

During the conference the Society's Chief Scientist, Tony Moffat, was interviewed by a number of radio stations and journalists. He said: "The growing interest of the media in BPC reflects the growing importance of the conference for pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists alike. It has become the venue for the presentation of cutting edge research in both practice and science for the benefit of patients. It's also an ideal place for pharmacists to satisfy their continuing professional development needs."

Jean-Pierre Moser, the Society's head of public relations and membership, said: "BPC is now firmly established on the media map, helping to raise the profile of pharmacy to a wide national audience. News reports about science and practice research showcased at BPC appeared throughout the week with the *Daily Mail*, *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *The Observer*, *The Express*, Radio Four's *Today* programme, Radio Five Live *Drive Time* and Sky News among those running stories."

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)

Adverse drug reactions

- Adverse drug reactions (ADRs): a distance learning course for pharmacists. 3rd ed. Randall C. Manchester: Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education; 2004.
- Handbook of drug allergy. Honsinger RW, Green GR. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2003.
- Herbal-drug interactions and adverse effects: an evidence-based quick reference guide. Philp RB. New York: McGraw Hill; 2004.
- Stephen's detection of new adverse drug reactions. 5th ed. Talbot JCC, Waller P. Chichester: Wiley; 2004.

Clinical trials

- Clinical trials and human research: a practical guide to regulatory compliance. Rozovsky FA, Adams R.K. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass; 2003.
- Design and analysis of clinical trials: concepts and methodologies. 2nd ed. Chow S-C, Liu J-P. Hoboken: Wiley; 2003.
- The handbook of clinical trials and other research. Earl-Slater Alan. Oxford: Radcliffe Medical; 2002.
- Textbook of clinical trials. Machin D, Day S, Green S. Chichester: Wiley; 2004.

Drug interactions

- Handbook of drug interactions: a clinical and forensic guide. Mozayani A, Raymon LP. Totowa, NJ: Humana Press; 2004.
- Handbook of drug-nutrition interactions. Boullata J, Armenti VT. Totowa, NJ: Humana Press; 2004.

Drug misuse

- Buzzed: the straight facts about the most used and abused drugs from alcohol to ecstasy. 2nd ed. Kuhn C, Swartzwelder S, Wilson W. New York: W W Norton; 2003.
- Handbook of the medical consequences of alcohol and drug abuse. Brick J. New York: Haworth Medical; 2004.
- Substance use and abuse: cultural and historical perspectives. Durrant R. London: Sage; 2003.

DIARY

Headquarters meetings

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

Wednesday 13 October

Branch and regional secretaries' meeting. 10am.

Local meetings

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

Monday 11 October

Bromley "Cannabis from plant to patient" by Tony Moffat (chief scientist, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Frognaal Postgraduate Medical Centre, Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup. Buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

Medway "School of Pharmacy 2004: how students are trained to become pharmacists in the 21st century" by Clare Mackie (head of Medway School of Pharmacy). Medway School of Pharmacy. Warm buffet 7.20pm, meeting 8pm.

Nottingham "Continuing professional development: the role of the local facilitator" by Diane King (local CPD facilitator for Nottingham). School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham. Finger buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Tuesday 12 October

Brighton Welcome to new students, followed by a talk on "The history of pharmacy" by Angela MacAdam. Postgraduate Medical Centre, Brighton General Hospital, Elm Grove. Finger Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Ipswich and Suffolk "Pharmacy technicians: registration and other current issues" by Darren Leech (president, Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK, and associate director of pharmacy, service development, Hinchingsbrooke Healthcare Trust). West Suffolk Hospital Postgraduate Centre. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Moray and Banff Meeting cancelled.

Oxfordshire "Pharmaceutical pickles" by David Reissner (solicitor, Charles Russell London). George Pickering Postgraduate Centre, Level 3, The John Radcliffe, Headington. Light refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

West Surrey Local professional activities, including Ask About Medicines Week, standard operating procedures and

continuing professional development. Burchatts Farm, Guildford. Hot buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 13 October

Solihull "Reducing coronary risk: the background to over-the-counter statins" by Rebecca Bradburn. Education Centre, Solihull Hospital, Lode Lane. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.45pm.

Thursday 14 October

Bradford "Continuing professional development: how to do it." Lecture Theatre, D Floor, Bradford University, Richmond Building. Buffet. 7.30 for 8pm.

Edinburgh and Lothians

"Devolution and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society: what every Scottish pharmacist wants." Scottish Health Services Centre, Crewe Road. 7pm.

Halifax "Hands-on: continuing professional development session" by Reema Caddies (local CPD facilitator, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). IT Centre, Calderdale Royal Hospital. Buffet 7.30pm (hospital canteen), meeting 8pm.

Lanarkshire "Devolution and the Society" by Michele Savage (project manager, devolution review, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Hilton Strathclyde Hotel, Bellshill. 8pm.

Manchester, Salford and Trafford "Zocor Heart-Pro: let's debate the issues" by field training manager, Johnson & Johnson MSD. Manchester Postgraduate Health Sciences Centre, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9WL. Light refreshments. 7.30 for 8pm.

Portsmouth "Continuing professional development: you can do it!" by Jane Portlock (local CPD facilitator) St Michael's Building, University of Portsmouth. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Wirral "The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services" by Tony Nunn (director of pharmacy, Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Clatterbridge Hospital. 7.30 for 8.15pm.

Monday 18 October

Stockport "Skin deep" by Mark Stapleton (dermatology specialist pharmacist, Hope Hospital NHS Trust, Salford). Lecture Theatre B, Stepping Hill Hospital, Postgraduate Centre, Pinewood House. Refreshments 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.