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Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain

Timetable for implementation of technician regulation announced

The timetable for implementation of the voluntary registration of pharmacy technicians, which is to be phased in by August 2005, has been announced by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. The timetable is as follows:

- **January 2005** — Start registration for applicants requiring no screening
- **April/May 2005** — Start registration for those with UK qualifications whose applications will require further scrutiny
- **July/August 2005** — Start registration for applicants with qualifications gained outside the UK

The Society approved a regulatory framework for pharmacy technicians in December 2002 (*PJ*, 14 December 2002, p863). Statutory powers are being sought via an Order under Section 60 of the 1999 Health Act and statutory registration will begin as soon as practicable after the necessary legislation is in place, probably in 2007. In the long term, there will be a single national

standard for entry to the register based on the Pharmacy Services S/NVQ level 3 qualification.

For a transitional period, beginning in 2005, during which grandparenting arrangements will apply, the Society will accept a range of current and older qualifications developed for pharmacy technicians, but pharmacy technicians applying to register with these qualifications will also have to provide evidence of recent work experience within criteria set by the Society.

Applications from pharmacy technicians with a relevant qualification who do not meet the Society's work experience criteria will be subject to further scrutiny. Separate processes are being developed for pharmacy technicians with qualifications gained outside the UK.

Janet Flint, the Society's head of support staff regulation, said: "The majority of applications will be straightforward and by adopting a phased approach we can begin to process these in January when the register opens."

This week

- **Technician registration**
The Society has announced a timetable for the implementation of pharmacy technician regulation (this page)
- **Achievement awards**
The Society wants nominations for its 2005 international achievement awards (this page)
- **Devolution**
The Society's devolution review group has met in Scotland (p698). A further meeting in Wales is planned
- **National Libraries Week**
The Society will take part in National Libraries week from 15 to 19 November (p698)

In brief

■ **New Press partnership**
The Pharmaceutical Press has licensed the content of Martindale to Ovid Technologies to be accessible on its Books@Ovid platform. The information will be available from January 2005 (see www.ovid.com).

President opens new hospital pharmacy in East Yorkshire



The President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Nicholas Wood, opened a new £600,000 pharmacy at Castle Hill Hospital, part of Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, on 29 October. The picture shows (left to right): Llewellyn Baker, head of pharmacy, Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust; Scilla Smith, chairman of Hull and East Yorkshire branch of the Society; and Mr Wood

Call for 2005 international achievement award nominations

Nominations for the GlaxoSmithKline International Achievement Award and the AstraZeneca Industrial Achievement Award for 2005 are being requested.

The GSK award recognises an individual or a team of up to six researchers who have demonstrated through published work over the past three years a substantial achievement in the application of scientific knowledge within the pharmaceutical sciences. It is open to researchers in academia, industry, public service or any other scientific establishment.

The AstraZeneca award recognises an individual who has given an outstanding contribution to either the advancement of the pharmaceutical sciences or services to the pharmaceutical industry. It is open to all pharmaceutical scientists and technologists currently working for, or associated with, the pharmaceutical industry.

Award winners will receive a cheque for £1,000. Individual winners, or leaders in the case of a successful team, will also be invited to attend the British Pharmaceutical Conference in September 2005 to give a lecture on their subject.

John Clements, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's science secretary, said: "These awards offer an opportunity to recognise researchers who have made important contributions to pharmaceutical sciences."

Further information about the awards is available from Judy Callanan (tel 020 7572 2261) or by e-mail (science@rpsgb.org).

Devolution review group meets stakeholders in Scotland

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's devolution review group has heard evidence from key stakeholders in the review. The open meeting held in Edinburgh on 26 October was attended by six observers, including representatives from the offices of Bill Scott, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for the Scottish Executive, and Carwen Wynne Howells, Chief Pharmaceutical Adviser for the Welsh Assembly Government.

It included presentations from the Association of Scottish Chief Pharmacists, the Association of Pharmaceutical Public Health, the University of Strathclyde School of Pharmacy, the Scottish Pharmaceutical General Council and the Scottish Pharmaceutical Federation (*PJ*, 30 October, p631).

Those attending the meeting heard update presentations from Angela Timoney, chairman of the Scottish Executive, and Andrea Robinson, immediate past chairman of the Welsh Executive, as well as a presentation from the Society Scottish Executive's devolution review working group. Michael McMahon, MSP for Bellshill and Hamilton North and chairman of the Public Petitions Committee, gave an overview on how the Scottish Parliament and its committees engage with other outside organisations.

The next meeting of the review group will take place at the Holland House Hotel, Cardiff, on 8 November (10.30am–4.30pm) and 9 November (9am–2.30pm).

Ann Lewis, the Society's Secretary and Registrar, said: "This meeting has been a significant step in moving the Society's devolu-

Devolution meetings

The Society says that it hopes to engage with as many of its branch members as possible throughout the review and Michele Savage will be attending a number of branch meetings with other members of the group. These include:

- Thursday 18 November 2004, Glasgow and West of Scotland branch, Strathclyde University (Maurice Hickey and Michele Savage)
- Monday 29 November 2004, 7pm, Aberdeen and North East Scotland branch, Atholl Hotel, Aberdeen (Angela Timoney and Michele Savage)
- Tuesday 11 January 2005, 7.30pm, Northern Scottish branch, Marriott Hotel, Inverness (Maurice Hickey and Michele Savage)

Other branches which would like to arrange a meeting should contact Ms Savage (tel 020 7572 2547 or e-mail michele.savage@rpsgb.org).

tion review forward. I look forward to the next meeting where the group will engage with key stakeholders in Wales."

Those wishing to attend the meeting should contact Michele Savage, the Society's project manager for devolution review, in advance (tel 020 7572 2547 or e-mail michele.savage@rpsgb.org).

Society to take part in Health Libraries week

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society will take part in Health Libraries Week from 15–19 November.

Health Libraries Week is co-ordinated by the NHS National Library for Health, NHS Education for Scotland and the Health Libraries Group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. Throughout the week visitors to the Society's library will be able to access and learn more about a wide range of information sources. Society staff will be on hand to help with any questions about library and information services, access to information, and using the internet.

A range of electronic information products from the Pharmaceutical Press, including MedicinesComplete, will be available in the Society's library during the week. There will be promotional items and discounts on selected items such as Pharmaceutical Press publications. Refreshments will be provided.

Roddy Morrison, the Society's librarian, said: "We are taking part in Health Libraries Week as we are keen to promote the Society's library services to its members. The week provides a good opportunity for members to find out more about the Society's library and how to get the most out of resources such as the online library catalogue and also how we can help with their continuing professional development needs."

The library will be open from 9am to 5pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and from 10am to 5:45pm on Thursday. Further information is available from the Society's library (tel 020 7572 2300).

'Medicines, ethics and practice': November list of amendments

In the first issue of each month, *The Journal* updates the guidance on the legal status of medicines published in the 28th edition (July 2004) of 'Medicines, ethics and practice: A

guide for pharmacists'. The amendments are given in **bold** type when added to the list and repeated each month in light type. A product's legal status can be obtained by

consulting first the latest amendment list and then the guide. The abbreviations used in the list are explained in the key to annotations in the body of the guide (p29 and p75).

Human medicines

Abilify tablets POM	Nurse preparations CD Inv P	Nizoral products")	Novoliser budesonide inhaler POM	Subgam POM
Acnocrin tablets POM	Denzapine tablets POM	Lemsip Cold & Flu Sinus	Numark heartburn relief tablets POM	TachoSil medicated sponge P
Amlodipine maleate POM	Dermol P	12 hr Ibuprofen + Pseudoephedrine capsules P	Numark muscle rub GSL	Telzir tablets POM
Cardioplen XL tablets POM	Erbix POM	Lemsip Max Sinus All	Numark muscle spray GSL	UniChem heartburn relief tablets P
Care heartburn relief tablets P	Gaviscon Cool preparations GSL	Night Decongestant spray GSL	Pediaceal vaccine POM	Vaniqa cream POM
Co-cyprindiol tablets POM	Gyno-pevaryl preps entry should read: Gyno-Pevaryl preparations POM	Levemir preparations POM	Protelos granules POM	Vantage heartburn relief tablets P
Co-Diovan tablets POM	Imigran Radis tablets POM	Levonelle One Step tablet P	Repevax vaccine POM	Vesicare tablets POM
Cough Nurse Night Time Liquid P	Inspra tablets POM	Lisicostad tablets POM	Raptiva POM	Vfend powder for oral suspension POM
Creon Micro granules P	Invivac vaccine POM	Lyricea capsules POM	Revaxis vaccine POM	Yentreve capsules POM
Dandraxol dandruff shampoo GSL	Ketoconazole entry: "(see Nizoral products)" should read "(see Dandraxol and	Myfortic tablets POM	Rhumalgan SR capsules POM	Zocor Heart-Pro tablets P
Day Nurse preparations entry should read: Day		NiQuitin CQ lozenges entry should read: NiQuitin CQ lozenges GSL	Rhumalgan XL capsules POM	Zovirax cold sore cream entry should read: Zovirax cold sore cream GSL
			Strattera capsules POM	
			Striant tablets POM	

Branch practices and problems shared

As the newly appointed secretary of one of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's branches, **Nick Hale** found the recent branch and regional secretaries' meeting a valuable way of learning from experience in other branches

As a first-time attendee at the branch and regional secretaries' meeting at Lambeth on 13 October I was not sure what to expect. The position of branch secretary for Southampton had been thrust upon me and I had only accepted because support was available from a number of others within the branch. This "job share" seems to work well, with me as the main point of contact for members and the Society.

It was mainly out of a sense of duty to local members that I first decided to attend the branch and regional secretaries' meeting. I had served on the branch committee for a number of years and so knew how our branch operates, but I did not know how other branches are run and what the Society expects from us.

What initially struck me was the size of the attendance. Although it was relatively easy for me to jump on a train for an hour's trip from the south coast and a 20-minute walk from Waterloo, the number of branches represented from all over England, Scotland and Wales was impressive. A significant number of Society staff were also available to chat to during the day. Our professional body obviously deems the gathering worthwhile.

Best practice

The most inspiring part of the day for me was the section dubbed "Best practice in branches", at which three branch secretaries presented what they have been doing locally, so passing on their "best practice" to all. The quality of the presentations was excellent.

Stirling and Central Scottish branch secretary Jonathan Burton informed us how he and his committee had decided no longer to organise meetings with clinical content. Instead their programme consists of meetings addressing professional and practice issues. Lectures on diabetes or asthma from local experts have been replaced by presentations on continuing professional development, Society issues, service development and models of practice. This, I think, was extremely brave. As any branch committee knows, a good clinical subject will draw an attendance of 50 or more whereas a meeting on local peer support would be lucky to attract 15. But is it right to duplicate the clinical lectures that can be accessed through the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education or other sources just to get bums on seats? Should the branches be offering more in the way of support for CPD, new pharmacy services and pharmacist prescribing? This may well be the way the branches will go as the profession changes over the next few years.



Speakers at the "best practice" session: left to right, John Gentle, session chairman Nicola Gray (member of Council), Jonathan Burton and David Morgan

David Morgan from Clwyd impressed also with details of how he communicates with branch members. He keeps in contact with them through three newsletters a year and through the branch's website.

John Gentle from Shropshire made an impassioned plea for branch members to make their e-mail addresses available wherever possible. This makes the role of the branch secretary so much easier and saves money for the branch.

Problems

The general feeling of those attending was that all branches suffer the same three major problems.

The first problem is how to engage the branch members. It is always the same people who attend branch meetings and it is usually around 10 per cent of the membership.

Second is how to keep in contact with the membership. Posting meeting details to members is expensive and time-consuming. The advent of e-mail and the internet helps with a proportion of the membership but there are still those who have no access to a computer.

The third problem is money. Branches still have to go cap in hand to pharmaceutical companies to be able to hire venues and provide food for their meetings.

It is comforting to know that one's problems in running a branch are shared with

others all around Britain. The branch and regional secretaries meeting provides an opportunity to hear how others are dealing with these problems and take their solutions back to one's own branch. The meeting offers a great opportunity to network with colleagues and also to find out what is really happening at Lambeth.

I would like to congratulate the Society on a well organised event and also thank the membership team for the support they give to the branches. I look forward to the next meeting.

The branch network

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's local branches provide an opportunity for members to get closer to the workings of the Society and to meet with other pharmacists and share experiences. With more than 130 branches nationwide, all those registered with the Society have the opportunity to belong to a branch that is either near to their home or near to their place of work. If the branch to which they are allocated is not the most convenient, members can opt to transfer to another branch.

To find out more about the network or to transfer to a branch more convenient for you, please contact the Society's membership unit (tel 020 7572 2331; e-mail b&ra@rpsgb.org).

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)

Monday 8 November

Nottingham "Topics in immunisation" by Keith Neal (reader in the epidemiology of communicable diseases, University of Nottingham). School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham. Finger buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Swindon "Continuing professional development mandatory in 2005: what does this mean to me?" by Anthony Trice. Oakfield Campus Swindon. Buffet. 7 for 7.30pm.

Tuesday 9 November

Brighton "Statins, cardiovascular risk and more" by Peter Devlin (GP lead on coronary heart disease, Brighton and Hove City Teaching Primary Care Trust). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Brighton General Hospital, Elm Grove. 8pm.

Moray and Banff "Technicians" by Janet Flint (head of support staff regulation, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Laichmoray Hotel, Elgin. 7pm.

Oxfordshire "Continuing professional development" by Linda Collins (CPD facilitator, Oxfordshire). George Pickering Postgraduate Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital. Light refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Shropshire "How and why drugs are moved from POM to P, using simvastatin as an example" by Rebecca Bradbury (Johnson & Johnson MSD). Albrighton Hall Hotel, Shrewsbury. Buffet 7pm. Meeting 8pm

Teesside "Supplementary prescribing," by Carol Candlish (University of Sunderland) and Tony Schofield (South Shields). Postgraduate Centre, North Tees General Hospital, Stockton-on-Tees. Buffet. 7.30 for 8pm. Joint meeting with Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists.

West Surrey "Continuing professional development: this is how to do it" by Diane Leakey (CPD facilitator). Guildford College. 8pm.

Wednesday 10 November

Manchester, Salford and Trafford "Continuing professional development: everything you want to know but did not like to ask" by Denise Clark (CPD facilitator). Manchester Postgraduate Health Sciences Centre, Manchester Royal Infirmary. Light refreshments. 7.30 for 8pm.

Solihull "Focus on men's health" by R. S. Jaganathan (consultant urologist, Heartlands and Solihull Hospital). Education Centre, Solihull Hospital. Hot meal 7pm, meeting 7.45pm.

West Cumberland "Chiropody in the NHS" by Susan Beattie and Pauline Miller. Hundith Hill Hotel, Nr Cockermouth. Followed by bar supper. 7.15 for 7.30pm.

Thursday 11 November

Bedfordshire "Update on sexually transmitted infections" by Geraldine Fletcher (STI unit, Bedford Hospital). Room LR7, Cranfield University, Silsoe. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Bolton "Cytochrome P450 involvement in drug interactions" by David Temple (director, Welsh Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education). Education Centre, Royal Bolton Hospital, Farnworth. 7.30 for 8pm.

Clwyd Presentation on "Drug use in pregnancy and breast feeding". Rossett Hall Hotel, Chester Road, Rossett, Nr Wrexham. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 7.45pm.

Hull "Treatment of epilepsy in children" by Ian Wong (director, Centre for Paediatric Pharmacy Research, University of London). Postgraduate Education Centre, Hull Royal Infirmary. 7.30pm.

Lanarkshire "Implications of the Shipman Inquiry" by Kay Roberts (pharmacist and expert witness for the Shipman Inquiry). Hilton Strathclyde Hotel, Bellshill. 8pm. Joint meeting with Lanarkshire division of British Medical Association.

South Essex "Drugs in renal failure" by Ian Barton (consultant renal physician, Basildon Hospital). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Basildon Hospital. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Weald of Kent "Trials and tribulations of setting up a school of pharmacy" by Clare Mackie (head, Medway School of Pharmacy). Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8.15pm.

Monday 15 November

Bromley "Podiatry" by Alex Duff (Darent Valley Hospital). Frognal Postgraduate Centre, Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup. Buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

Medway Presentation on "Non-medical prescribing, supplementary prescribing and extended prescribing". Medway School of Pharmacy, Chatham Maritime. Buffet 7.20pm, meeting 8pm.

Southampton "Dermatology — new developments: tacrolimus and pimecrolimus" by Peter Friedmann (of the dermatopharmacology unit, Southampton General Hospital). Rose Road Association, Bradbury Centre, 300 Aldermeer Road, Southampton. Refreshments. 7.30 for 8pm.

Slough "Pharmacy forum discussion" with Sultan Dajani (member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council), Sally Greensmith (past member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council) and Rob Darracott (director of corporate and strategic development, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). John Lister Postgraduate Centre, (Entrance 4), Wexham Park Hospital. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

DEATHS

Kelly Bernard James Kelly, MRPharmS, of Avenida Or Gadea 19C, Alicante, Spain. Mr Kelly registered in 1960.

Smith On 31 October, Graham Stuart Smith, MRPharmS, of Sontley Cottage, Sontley Road, Wrexham LL13 7EN. Funeral to be held at St Giles's Parish Church, Wrexham at 12:45 on Monday 8 November. No flowers; donations to Nightingale House Hospice. Contact Clive Albany (tel 01244 851364).

TRIBUTES

Fillis In a tribute to the late Yvonne Eleanor Fillis (*PJ*, 23 October, p627), MARGARET MARTIN writes: I was saddened to hear of Yvonne Fillis's death, after her long fight with cancer. I knew her at St Bartholomew's Hospital, where she was deputy chief pharmacist, and I kept in touch with her when I went to Canada.

She was a pleasant person to work for and a good pharmacist. She was also concerned about people's welfare.

Diary

Announcements of branch and regional meetings for the Diary column should reach *The Journal* by 1pm on the Tuesday before publication. Programme cards are welcome at the beginning of the season.

Correction

In the caption to a photograph of the opening of a new pharmacy at Castle Hill Hospital (p697), Scilla Smith should have been described as chairman of the Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust.