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Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain

Scottish Executive adopts public affairs plan for influencing politicians and opinion-formers

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Scottish Executive has adopted a new public affairs plan with the aim of influencing politicians and other opinion-formers in Scotland.

At its meeting in Edinburgh on 16 March, the executive approved, subject to minor amendment, a plan prepared by its communications working group. Building on the work already under way to influence the Scottish Executive and Scottish Parliament, the new plan focuses on a limited number of specific issues. The Society will use the plan to seek changes to government policy, raise awareness about pharmacy services among politicians and opinion formers, and improve the knowledge of members of the Scottish Parliament about medicines and other pharmacy issues.

Independent prescribing The executive expressed strong support for independent prescribing by pharmacists during discussion on the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency consultation on the concept. The executive plans to feed into the Society's Council its views on the various options set out in the discussion document.

Diabetes care Ways in which pharmacists have been able to improve the care of diabetes patients in a multidisciplinary environment were outlined to the Scottish Executive during a briefing about the development of

work on diabetes. The briefing was given by Annamarie McGregor, a member of the executive and director of pharmaceutical care model schemes with the Scottish Executive Health Department.

Ethnic minorities The executive set up a working group to make recommendations on the provision of pharmaceutical care services for ethnic minorities.

Pharmacy workforce Following discussion on the Society's response to the Department of Health consultation on "Making the best use of the pharmacy workforce", the executive set up a working group to prepare the response to the Scottish Executive Health Department's separate consultation on the subject.

ABPI code of practice Members of the executive agreed to submit written views to help the Society in Scotland to prepare a submission to a review of the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry code of practice. The executive heard that the ABPI's Scottish office was seeking the views of external stakeholders on what reforms may be required to the code.

Next meeting The next meeting of the Scottish Executive takes place on Monday 6 June at 12.30pm.

This week

- **Scottish public affairs plan**
The Society's Scottish Executive has adopted a new public affairs plan with the aim of influencing politicians and other opinion-formers (p401).
- **Crushing buprenorphine tablets**
The Society has issued guidance for pharmacists on the crushing of buprenorphine sublingual tablets before their administration (p401).
- **Scottish Executive election**
Brief biographies of the candidates in this year's election to the Society's Scottish Executive are published this week (p403).

Welsh Executive seeks candidates for election

Candidates are being sought for the annual election of four members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Welsh Executive (see Official Notice, p405).

Applicants, who need the signature of at least one supporter, must submit brief biographical details and elections statements by 13 April.

Successful candidates normally serve for a three-year term, but this year's candidates are being warned that the period of service may be affected by the outcome of the Society's devolution review.

Society issues guidance on crushing buprenorphine sublingual tablets

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has issued guidance for pharmacists regarding the crushing of buprenorphine sublingual tablets (Subutex) before their administration.

The Society has been receiving an increasing number of queries from pharmacists about the possibility of crushing the tablets to speed up their administration. Buprenorphine is frequently used to prevent withdrawal symptoms in programmes for treating opioid dependence, and pharmacists are sometimes asked to supervise administration to prevent the patient selling unused product to other drug misusers. The long dissolution time for Subutex — up to 10 minutes, according to its manufacturer — has implications for both the patient and the supervising pharmacist. Some pharmacists are therefore crushing the tablets in an effort to speed up the supervised administration.

The Society's guidance is set out in the Panel below. Because crushing the tablets results in an unlicensed product, the National Pharmaceutical Association has agreed to support the guidance by indemnifying NPA

members who provide a crushed Subutex service, provided they comply with a defined protocol, which can be found at the CDA channel on the association's member-only intranet, NPAnet.

New guidance on crushing buprenorphine sublingual tablets

Crushing buprenorphine sublingual is outside the manufacturer's marketing authorisation and will render the product unlicensed.

A pharmacist may assume some liability for the supply of a product outside licensed indications and should ensure that their indemnity insurance covers such activity.

Pharmacists who are considering crushing buprenorphine tablets before administration need to

be satisfied that this is in the patient's best interests as there is the potential for the product's bioavailability profile to be distorted. The prescriber and the patient should agree to the tablets being crushed before administration — and the patient should be informed of the risks and the benefits of crushing. Any crushing of buprenorphine tablets should be for the benefit of the patient, rather than the convenience of the pharmacist.

'Medicines, ethics and practice': April 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
Aciclovir entry should include the following addition (at end): Please refer to proprietary names for the classification granted under the marketing authorisation (see Zovirax products)
Acnocrin tablets POM
Adipine XL tablets POM
Aldara cream POM
Alimta POM
Alvesco POM
Amsidine concentrate for infusion entry should read: Amsidine preparations POM
Amlodipine maleate POM
Angiox POM
Avastin concentrate for solution for infusion POM
Cardioplen XL tablets POM
Care heartburn relief tablets P
Co-cyprindiol tablets POM
Co-Diovan tablets POM
Cough Nurse Night Time Liquid P

Creon Micro granules P
Cymbalta capsules POM
Dandrazol dandruff shampoo GSL
Day Nurse preparations entry should read: Day Nurse preparations CD Inv P
Denzapine tablets POM
Dermol P
Durogesic DTrans patches CD POM
Equasym XL capsules CD POM
Erbixun POM
Gaviscon Cool preparations GSL
Germoloids HC spray entry should read: Germoloids HC spray GSL
Gyno-pevaryl preps entry should read: Gyno-Pevaryl preparations POM
Imigran Radis tablets POM
Inspra tablets POM
Invivac vaccine POM
Keppra tablets entry should read: Keppra preparations POM
Ketoconazole entry: "(see Nizoral products)" should read "(see

Dandrazol and Nizoral products)"
Larapram caps entry should read: Larapram preparation POM
Lemsip Cold & Flu Sinus 12 hr Ibuprofen + Pseudoephedrine capsules P
Lemsip Max Sinus All Night Decongestant spray GSL
Levemir preparations POM
Levonelle One Step tablet P
Lidocaine/lignocaine hydrochloride entry should include the following addition (at end): or external (except local ophthalmic use for adults and children aged 16 years and over, in combination with hydrocortisone for symptomatic relief of anal and perianal itch, irritation and pain associated with external haemorrhoids, in a non pressurised spray), please refer to proprietary names for

the classification granted under the marketing authorisation (see Germoloid HC products)
Lisicostad tablets POM
Lyrica capsules POM
Mimpara tablets POM
Myfortic tablets POM
Nebido solution for injection POM
NiQuitin CQ lozenges entry should read: NiQuitin CQ lozenges GSL
Novoliser budesonide inhaler POM
Numark allergy eye drops P
Numark antihistamine oral solution P
Numark heartburn relief tablets P
Numark loratadine liquid P
Numark muscle rub GSL
Numark muscle spray GSL
Pediaceal vaccine POM
Protelos granules POM
Repevax vaccine POM
Raptiva POM
Revaxis vaccine POM
Rhumalgan SR capsules POM
Rhumalgan XL capsules POM

Strattera capsules POM
Striant tablets POM
Subgam POM
Suprax paediatric suspension POM
TachoSil medicated sponge P
Taxol injection entry should read: Taxol preparations POM
Telzir preparations POM
UniChem heartburn relief tablets P
Vaniqa cream POM
Vantage Pharmacy hayfever + allergy relief tablets P
Vantage Pharmacy heartburn relief tablets P
Vantage Pharmacy non-drowsy allergy relief preparations P
Vesicare tablets POM
Vfend powder for oral suspension POM
Xagrid tablets POM
Yentreve capsules POM
Zaponex tablets POM
Zocor Heart-Pro tablets P
Zovirax cold sore cream entry should read: Zovirax cold sore cream GSL

Society hosts 10th Arden House European conference in London

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society hosted the 10th Arden House European Conference, on "Materials science: characterisation of pharmaceutical materials for candidate selection, formulation development, good process outcomes and regulatory approval", at its headquarters in London from 21 to 23 March.

The conference was presented by the Society in partnership with the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists. It attracted participants from the UK, Europe, Japan and the US. Arden House European conferences offers a similar programme to the annual AAPS conference held at Columbia University's Arden House conference centre in the state of New York.

This year's conference, led by Graham Buckton, head of pharmaceuticals at the School of Pharmacy, University of London, provided an update on methods of characterising materials and what is possible with the present state of knowledge in materials science. It identified what is needed to make advances in candidate selection, formulation development and manufacturing.



Left to right, Murti Vemuri (Aventis, US), Graeme Day (University of Cambridge), Ann Marie Healey (Trinity College Dublin), Richard Storey (AstraZeneca), James McCabe (AstraZeneca), Lesley Mackin (AstraZeneca), Greg Webber (GlaxoSmithKline), Robin Harris (University of Durham), Graham Buckton, Gerard Kamstra (Simmonds & Simmonds) and Christina Graffner (Medical Products Agency, Sweden)

Eight candidates contest Scottish Executive election

Eight candidates are contesting this year's election of six members of the Scottish Department Executive of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. They include all six of the retiring executive members — Christine Bond, Michele Caldwell, Christine Gilmour, Rose Marie Parr, David Thomson and Angela Timoney — who are joined in the election by David Dalglish and Josie Johnston

We have been supplied with the following biographies of the candidates for election to the Scottish Executive. Voting papers will be circulated to all members of the Society with registered addresses in Scotland and must be returned by 4pm on Friday 6 May 2005.

Christine Bond, BPharm, FRPharmS, PhD, HonMFPHM, has worked for Glaxo Research Laboratories, had extensive locum community pharmacist experience and is now professor of Primary Care, University of Aberdeen, with interests in the contribution of pharmacy to effective use of medicines (prescribed and over-the-counter) and the wider health care agenda. She is part time consultant in pharmaceutical public health (NHS Grampian), editor of *The International Journal of Pharmacy Practice*, a committee member of the Society's Aberdeen and North Eastern Scottish branch and a member of the Scottish Executive since 1999.

Michele Stewart Caldwell, BSc(Hons), MSc, MRPharmS, graduated from Strathclyde University in 1979 and undertook a postgraduate MSc in clinical pharmacy, graduating in 1982, while working in Glasgow Royal Infirmary. She moved to Ayrshire and Arran in 1982 and has held a variety of hospital pharmacy posts since then. She is currently director of pharmacy for NHS Ayrshire and Arran, which embraces community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, pharmaceutical public health and prescribing advice across the local NHS system. She is a member (currently chairman) of the area pharmacy professional committee. Her specific professional interests include the use of information technology to support pharmaceutical care.

David John Dalglish, BSc(Hons), BA(Hons), MBA, MRPharmS, registered in 1971. He is currently head of pharmacy for NHS Borders, and was previously a community pharmacy owner for 25 years. His present positions include membership of the clinical executive of NHS Borders, Borders

Area Pharmaceutical Committee, Association of Scottish Chief Pharmacists primary care group (honorary secretary) and the National Prescribing Information Group. He is a past member of the Society's Council from 1974 to 1983, a past chairman of the Society's Agricultural and Veterinary Pharmacists Group and several Council committees, a past member of the Scottish Executive, a past chairman of the Society's Dundee and South East of Scotland and East Cumberland branches and a past president and treasurer of the British Pharmaceutical Students Association.

Christine Gilmour, MRPharmS, MBA, registered in 1985. She is chief pharmacist, NHS Lanarkshire Acute Hospitals, since 2000. She has been chairman of the Association of Scottish Chief Pharmacists since 2003, was a co-opted member of the Society's Scottish Executive in 2004–05 and has been a member of Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists council since 2004. She was trust chief pharmacist, Hairmyres Hospital NHS Trust, 1993–2000, pharmacy prescribing adviser/community services pharmacist, Forth Valley Health Board, 1990–2000, clinical pharmacist, Woodilee Hospital, Glasgow, 1990, community pharmacist, Lloyds Pharmacy, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, 1988–90, and community pharmacist, Munro Pharmacy, Glasgow, 1986–88.

Josephine Falconer Johnston (née Drake), BSc, DipComClinPharm, MRPharmS, of Dundee, aged 50, registered in 1977. She has been practice pharmacist, NHS Tayside, since 2000 and is a visiting lecturer, extended nurse prescribing course, University of Dundee. She is a member of Tayside Pharmacy Practices Committee, Tayside Area Pharmaceutical Committee (since February 2005) and Tayside coronary heart disease managed clinical network advisory group. She is currently undertaking a supplementary prescribing course. She was previously a manager/preregistration tutor for Lloyds Pharmacy, 1997–2001.

Rose Marie Parr, BSc(Hons), MSc, MRPharmS, is director of pharmacy for NHS Education for Scotland and director of the Centre for Post Qualification Pharmaceutical Education for NHS pharmacists in Scotland. She has been in this post since March 1993. Previous posts include principal clinical pharmacist in the Forth Valley Health Board area and posts in hospital pharmacy in the Lanarkshire Health Board area. She is a member of the Association of Medical Education in the UK and Europe. She is designated a national specialist in post qualification pharmaceutical education. She is currently chairman of the National Pharmaceutical Forum and vice-chairman of the Society's Scottish Executive.

David Alexander McGillivray Thomson, BScPharm, MRPharmS, a graduate of Robert Gordon University, registered in 1977. He has a community pharmacy background and is now director of pharmacy, Primary Care Division, Greater Glasgow. He is a member of: the Scottish Executive (immediate past chairman); Greater Glasgow Area Pharmaceutical Committee; ACPP; Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists; the Society's Glasgow and West Scotland branch, (past chairman and current branch public relations officer); National Pharmaceutical Forum; Association of Scottish Chief Pharmacists (chairman, primary care group); Society's Devolution Review Working Group. He is a past member of the Post Qualification Education Board for Scotland; and a past SCPPE national tutor. His hobbies include wine appreciation, watching gardening and rugby.

Angela Timoney, MSc, MPH, MRPharmS, is currently a consultant in pharmaceutical public health with NHS Tayside. She has been in this post since 1999. She is chairman of the Society's Scottish Executive and vice-chairman of the Scottish Medicines Consortium and the National Pharmaceutical Forum. Her interests are in the implementation of evidence based practice and patient/public involvement.

Showcases

Two portable showcases holding pharmacy items from the 19th and early 20th centuries are available on loan from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's museum for display at sites such as pharmacies, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, local museums, libraries, schools and other education centres.

One case is themed around the art of Victorian dispensing and includes a pill mortar, pill machine, pill rounders and silverers, powder folders and suppository moulds. The other case has a Victorian ceramic inhaler, a group of medicine and poison bottles, rectal ointment introducers and a range of medicines.

Each case consists of a clear Perspex display unit on a waist-high plinth. The objects are permanently secured to the base of the sealed unit. For transit,

the plinth becomes a protective case. Packed for transit, the cases are 75cm x 60cm x 90cm high. Each weighs about 40kg.

The cases may be borrowed singly or as a pair. The standard loan period is one month, but longer periods can sometimes be arranged. Borrowers may collect the cases, or the museum can arrange delivery at cost. Loan attracts a small administration fee, and borrowers must meet certain conditions as regards security during use and transit.

Further information about the showcases can be obtained from the Museum Office (tel 0207572 2210; fax 020 7572 2499; e-mail museum@rpsgb.org) or from the museum section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/museum).

Striking-off for theft of medicines worth £26,000

A locum pharmacist who stole medicines worth £26,000 from branches of Superdrug, and then sold them on to a proprietor pharmacist acquaintance, has been removed from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists on the order of the Statutory Committee.

On 14 December 2004 the committee inquired into the case of James Robert Cranston Tugby, whose registered address was Eastview, 1 Western Drive, Claybrook Parva, Leicester. On 1 July 2003, at Chester Crown Court, Mr Tugby had pleaded guilty to and been convicted of conspiracy to steal, for which he had been sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment and subjected to a confiscation order in the sum of £26,195.18 to be paid within 56 days. The pharmacist to whom Mr Tugby had supplied the drugs, Amin-Ur Rashid (see report below), was his alleged co-conspirator at the trial, but the case against Mr Rashid was withdrawn and a "not guilty" verdict entered.

College friend

David Bradly, for the Society, told the committee that from March 1998 to December 2002 Mr Tugby worked a total of 512 days for Superdrug, receiving in total just over £112,000 by way of fees and expenses over that three-year period. However, in addition to carrying out his duties as a locum pharmacist, he was also stealing medicines from the pharmacies and selling them on to Mr Rashid, a friend from their college days, for use in Mr Rashid's own pharmacy in Chickenley, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. The precise value of the medicines concerned was not known, but Mr Rashid had paid Mr Tugby a total of about £26,000.

Interviewed by the police, Mr Tugby had explained that valuable amounts of in-date medicines were returned by patients for destruction, and he had proposed to Mr Rashid that he should supply such medicines cheaply. He said that Mr Rashid, although knowing from the outset that the medicines were patient returns, had never been aware that they were stolen.

From systematically stealing patient returns, Mr Tugby went on to steal new dispensary stock. Sometimes he swapped patient returns for newer unused stock of the same product. Sometimes expensive patient returns went back onto the dispensary shelves and he took other products of similar value.

At interview, Mr Tugby explained that Mr Rashid made lists of medicines he was interested in and Mr Tugby looked out for items from the lists while carrying out locums. Mr Rashid placed his orders by text message or phone call.

This state of affairs continued until December 2002 when the regular pharmacist in a Superdrug branch noticed that stock worth about £500 had apparently gone missing while Mr Tugby was standing in for her on the previous day. When Mr Tugby next worked for Superdrug, later that month, he was searched and significant amounts of medicine were found.

Superdrug put the matter in the hands of the police, who in due course searched Mr Tugby's house and car, finding a total of 85 medicines and a list of 632 medicines wanted by Mr Rashid.

Mr Tugby told the committee that he did not spend any of the money from the thefts. His only concern was to ensure that his

mother was "financially OK" after the death of his father in 1998.

He went on: "I am extremely ashamed and sorry for having to come before you and the shame I have caused to my profession and Superdrug. It was a gross breach of trust. It repulses me to think what I have done. I have let my family down badly."

After his release he worked 12 hours a day seven days a week as a pharmacist to pay £30,000 compensation. He also paid a further £26,000 to Superdrug to cover the company's losses and prevent a civil case.

Mr Tugby claimed that he became depressed and thought about killing himself after his father's death. He had been taking a high dose of antidepressant.

Breach of trust

Giving the committee's determination, the chairman, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, said that Mr Tugby was remorseful and ashamed of the manner in which he had let down his profession. But, like the trial judge, the committee was bound to take a serious view of his breach of trust and had no option but to direct the removal of his name from the Register.

He added: "We are concerned that Mr Tugby now has serious medical problems and should be pursuing whatever assistance and support is available to him. In our view, he should be concentrating on this and should he seek restoration to the Register in due course, the Committee would obviously want to be confident that these problems that at present afflict him are behind him."

Mr Tugby had three months in which to appeal against the decision. His name was removed from the register on 16 March.

Reprimand for supply of medicines obtained from questionable source

The Statutory Committee has reprimanded a pharmacist who supplied the public with medicines from a questionable source.

On 13 and 14 December 2004, the committee inquired into a complaint by the Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society about Amin-Ur Rashid, of 6 Victoria Crescent, Birkdale Road, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, who is the sole proprietor of Chickenley Pharmacy, at 51 Walnut Lane, Dewsbury. The Council alleged that, contrary to the requirements of the Society's Code of Ethics, Mr Rashid had obtained medicines for onward supply to the public from a source other than a manufacturer or licensed wholesaler and had failed to take appropriate steps to check that the source, supplier and quality of those medicines was reputable.

The committee heard that over two-and-a-half years, for use in his pharmacy in West Yorkshire, Mr Rashid had bought medicines worth about £26,000 from a pharmacist friend, James Tugby, who was eventually con-

victed and jailed for stealing the medicines from branches of Superdrug while working as a locum (see report above). Mr Rashid had been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to steal medicines but the case against him had been thrown out of court.

Discount

Mr Rashid admitted failing to ensure that the medicines were from a reputable source but claimed that he had not known that they were stolen when he bought them at a discount from Mr Tugby. However, he admitted that he became suspicious about where Mr Tugby was getting the drugs when he received some out-of-date inhalers. "I was worried, but I didn't know he was stealing."

Elyas Patel, for Mr Rashid, said that from the beginning of police interviews, his client had been helpful, co-operative, frank and candid.

He added that Mr Rashid has continued to work at his pharmacy in Dewsbury, where

the local community was behind him and did not want him to stop being their pharmacist.

Giving the committee's determination, the chairman Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, said that the committee accepted that Mr Rashid had no knowledge of Mr Tugby's repeated thefts. But he knew that Mr Tugby was not a wholesaler and did not check the source of his supply.

But Lord Fraser added: "We've heard from a significant number of witnesses in the community who have travelled down from Yorkshire to support him. The support for him in the local community is genuine. It is also relevant to take into account his 14 years of unblemished conduct."

Lord Fraser complained that the committee had an inadequate range of sanctions open to it. Finding misconduct proved it could only reprimand or remove from the register. He concluded: "Removal from the register is not warranted but a reprimand is the next most serious measure we can impose."

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).

Welsh Executive election

Notice is hereby given to members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society whose addresses in the Register are in Wales that the annual election for members of the Welsh Executive will be held in June.

The four retiring members are Rowena McArtney, Phil Parry, Colin Ranshaw and Andrea Robinson, all of whom are eligible for re-election.

Nominations for candidates for the 2005 election are now invited, the closing date for receipt of nominations being 4pm on Wednesday 13 April 2005.

Nominations require the signature of the self-nominating nominee and one supporter. Nominees are asked to enclose with the nomination form their biographical details not exceeding 150 words and a statement indicating how they can assist the Welsh Executive to carry out its responsibilities not exceeding 100 words, as indicated on the nomination form.

As the review on meeting the needs of devolution is agreed and implemented, the executive will also be reviewed. This review may, depending on the timing and the outcomes of the review, impact on the terms of office that members elected to the executive in this election are asked to serve. However, the period of service will

not be longer than the three years stated in the constitution, and might possibly be shorter.

Nomination forms are available on request from the Secretary to the Welsh Executive, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Gloucester House, 14 Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff CF10 5DP, or via the Welsh Executive website (www.rpsgb.org/wales), and should be returned to the Cardiff office.

Catherine O'Brien
Secretary to the Welsh Executive

Hospital Pharmacists Group Committee election 2005

Nominations are invited from members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Hospital Pharmacists Group for candidates to stand for election to the committee. There are vacancies for two committee members to represent England and one to represent Scotland.

Candidates to represent England in the election must be group members resident in England and may be nominated only by group members also resident in England.

The candidate to represent Scotland in the election must be a group member resident in Scotland and may be nominated only by group members also resident in Scotland.

Nominations should be submitted to Robert Clayton, secretary to the Hospital Pharmacists Group, at the Society's headquarters, and should be received by 15 April 2005.

Nominations need not be made on a special form. The proposer should state his or her registered name, registered address and registration number. The nominee must submit a letter stating that he

or she is agreeable to the nomination.

If more candidates are nominated than there are places to fill, an election will be carried out by postal ballot in May 2005. Only members of the group living in England will be eligible to vote for two committee members to represent England. Only members of the group living in Scotland will be eligible to vote for one committee member to represent Scotland.

The newly elected members will normally serve for a period of three years from June 2005.

Robert Clayton
Secretary to the Hospital Pharmacists Group

NB. Only members of the Hospital Pharmacists Group are eligible to nominate or seek election nomination for election. Receipt of Hospital Pharmacist journal does not confer membership of the group.

Council voting papers

Voting papers for the 2005 Council election have now been posted to members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. After completion, the papers should be returned to Electoral Reform Services, Box 6352, London N1 1YR, to arrive not later than noon on Monday 11 April.

The business reply envelope sent to members living in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is marked "second class" and members are asked to post their voting papers as early as possible.

Any member who does not receive voting papers should contact the Society's head of central administration, Averil Ridgway (tel 020 7572 2205; e-mail averil.ridgway@rpsgb.org), so that a further set can be sent.

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)

Cardiovascular disease

- Atrial fibrillation. Kowey P, Naccarelli GV. New York: Marcel Dekker; 2005.
- Drugs for the heart. Opie LH, Gersh BJ. 6th ed. Philadelphia: W B Saunders; 2005.

CNS disorders

- Parkinson's disease. Ebadi M, Pfeiffer RF. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press; 2005.
- The scientific basis for the treatment of Parkinson's disease. Galvez-Jimenez N. 2nd ed. London: Taylor Francis; 2005.

Infectious disease

- Antibiotic optimization: concepts and strategies in clinical practice. Owens R, Ambrose PG, Nightingale CH. New York: Marcel Dekker; 2004.
- Antiviral agents, vaccines and immunotherapies. Tying SK. New York: Marcel Dekker; 2005.
- Catheter-related infections. 2nd ed. Seifert H, Jansen B, Farr BM. New York: Marcel Dekker; 2005.

Endocrine system

- Prevention and management of osteoporosis: report of a WHO Scientific Group. World Health Organization. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2004. (WHO Technical Report 921).
- Prevention of type 2 diabetes. Ganz M. Chichester: Wiley; 2005.

Malignant disease

- Cancer chemoprevention. Volume 1. Promising cancer chemoprevention agents. Kelloff GJ, Hawk ET, Sigman CC. Totowa, NJ: Humana Press; 2004.
- Cytotoxins and immunotoxins for cancer therapy. Kawakami K, Aggarwal BB, Puri RP. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press; 2005.
- Phytopharmaceuticals in cancer chemoprevention. Bagchi D, Preuss HG. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press; 2005.

Veterinary diploma

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society offers a diploma in veterinary pharmacy and a postgraduate certificate in companion animal health care.

The core programme for the diploma consists of four modules, each of which includes a written assignment. The modules are:

- (1) Companion animals and public health
- (2) Companion animal health care
- (3) Veterinary pharmacy
- (4) Livestock health and husbandry

Those aiming for the diploma must complete all four modules, undertake 75 hours of recorded practical experience, submit a dissertation and sit an oral examination. They study modules three and four during two consecutive three-day residential periods at Harper

Adams University College, near Newport, Shropshire, where a full range of livestock units is available for study. These modules are assessed by written examination. The full diploma course can be taken in one year or spread over up to four years

The postgraduate certificate can be obtained by completing the first two modules, which are studied through distance learning with the aid of a textbook and assessed by written assignments. The certificate course includes a study day at Harper Adams. The study day offers an update on current issues together with case study exercises, consideration of dissertation topics and a link to the other two modules.

Further information and registration forms can be obtained from Lorraine Fearon, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2409; e-mail lorraine.fearon@rpsgb.org).

DEATHS

Bassil On 27 February, Malcolm John Bassil, MRPharmS, of 31 Arun Road, West End, Southampton SO18 3PR. Mr Bassil registered in 1956.

Brockman On 27 January, Irene Muriel Brockman, MRPharmS, of 14 The Heights, St Johns Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1RZ. Mrs Brockman registered in 1948.

Dalton On 11 March, Robert Dalton, of Flat 3, Stukeley Park, Owl End, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 4AD. Mr Dalton registered in 1935 and retired from the register in 2000.

Davdani On 30 December 2004, Sultanali Roshanali Davdani, MRPharmS, of 25 Palmerston Drive, Thornhill, Ontario L4J 7V8, Canada. Mr Davdani registered in 1974.

Raisbeck On 21 February, Vera Emma Raisbeck, MRPharmS, of 3 Kingsdale Road, Debdale Park, Gorton, Manchester M18 7WB. Mrs Raisbeck registered in 1954.

Skinner On 18 February, John Alfred Skinner, MRPharmS, of 6 Wood Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire PE16 6LJ. Mr Skinner registered in 1931.

Trenberth On 26 February, Gordon Trenberth, of 1 Woodlands Park Drive, Cadoxton, Neath, West Glamorgan SA10 8DE. Mr Trenberth registered in 1944.

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).

BSHP foundation lecture: health care 1930–50

The 2005 foundation lecture of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy will be given at a joint meeting of the BSHP and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society at the latter's London headquarters on Wednesday 13 April 2005, at 6.30pm, when Robert Bud (principal curator of medicine, Science Museum) will speak on "Patients, drugs and doctors 1930–50".

The meeting will be preceded at 5pm by the BSHP annual general meeting, after which refreshments will be available.

Non-members are welcome to attend.

DIARY

Headquarters meetings

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

Monday 4 April
Infringements Committee. 9am.
Officers' meeting. 10.30am.

Tuesday 5 April
Reciprocity meeting. 10am.
Council meeting. 6.30 for 7pm.
Council Dinner. 2pm

Wednesday 6 April
Council meeting. 9am.

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 4 April
Derby "Pharmacy technician registration" by Janet Flint (head of support staff regulation, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Landau Forte College, Fox Street, Derby. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Sefton "One night with Venus" by Mike Abbott (consultant in sexual health). Ward 4A, Southport and Formby District General Hospital. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

South Lincolnshire "Continuing professional development" by Diane King (local CPD facilitator, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Marriott Hotel, Grantham. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Stockport Annual general meeting and "Diabetes and the new contract" by Stuart Bootle (primary care diabetes specialist). Lecture Theatre B, Postgraduate Centre, Pinewood House, Stepping Hill Hospital. Refreshments 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

Tuesday 5 April
Bolton "Drugs, hyperbaric oxygen and head and neck surgery" by Andrew Baldwin (consultant in maxillofacial surgery, North Manchester Hospital). Education Centre, Royal Bolton Hospital, Farnworth. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm. Joint meeting with Bolton Medical Society.

Bradford "Schizophrenia: the specialist pharmacist's view" by Alistair Tinto. Hanover International Hotel, Bradford. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Brighton "Continuing professional development" by Diane Leakey (local CPD facilitator, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Eastern Road, Elm Grove. Supper

will be available at 7pm for a contribution of £5, meeting 8pm.

Crawley, Horsham and Reigate "Continuing professional development: how to do it" by Sue Jones (local CPD facilitator, Royal Pharmaceutical Society), followed by annual general meeting. Postgraduate Medical Centre, Crawley Hospital. Refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.
East Kent "Medicines management" by an industry speaker. Medway School of Pharmacy. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 6 April
Hereford "An update on pharmaceutical care in diabetes" by Adrian Brown. Three Counties Hotel. 7.30pm.

South East Metropolitan "Single assessment process and medicines management in older people". Clarendon Hotel, Montpelier Row. 8pm.

Thursday 7 April
Hounslow "Patient package inserts: the future?" by a gastroenterology consultant, followed by annual general meeting. Education Centre, West Middlesex University Hospital, Twickenham Road, Isleworth. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.



Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

London headquarters

Switchboard 020 7735 9141; direct dialling, see 'Medicines, ethics and practice'; fax 020 7735 7629; e-mail enquiries@rpsgb.org; website www.rpsgb.org

Scottish Department

Headquarters of the Society in Scotland (including library and information service) 0131 556 4386 (see also 'MEP' guide); fax 0131 558 8850; e-mail info@rpsis.com

Welsh Executive

Headquarters of the Society's Welsh Executive 029 2041 2800; fax 029 2041 2810; e-mail wales@rpsgb.org

Information centre

Book loans and information Library (loans, photocopies) 020 7572 2300; e-mail library@rpsgb.org Technical information, 020 7572 2302; fax 020 7572 2499; e-mail techinfo@rpsgb.org

Pharmacists' advisory service

Information on legal and ethical matters relating to pharmacy practice, 020 7572 2308; fax 020 7572 2510, e-mail ftp@rpsgb.org

Problems?

Do you have a problem with alcohol or drugs? Do you know of a pharmacist colleague who has?

Confidential help is available through the Pharmacists' Health Support Programme. Telephone the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's welfare officer, Beverly Nicol (tel 01323 890135).

Sheffield "Use of maggots in wound disinfection" by Margaret Kitching (tissue viability nurse, Barnsley). Holiday Inn Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield. Light buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

West Hertfordshire Annual general meeting and "Asthma" by Jessica Ward. Park Hall, Leyton Road, Harpenden. 7.30 for 8pm.

Wigan "Resurrection of the branch?" by David Bethell. Bocket Hotel, Wigan. 7.30pm.

Monday 11 April

Slough "Contraception" by a speaker from Schering, and continuing professional development session facilitated by Anthony Trice. John Lister Postgraduate Centre, (Entrance 4) Wexham Park Hospital. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

Pharmaceutics information

Information, advice and problem-solving 020 7572 2302; fax 020 7572 2499; e-mail pharm.div.rpsgb@dial.pipex.com

Benevolent fund

Financial help for pharmacists and their dependants and information about convalescence 01926 315994 or 01323 890135

Pharmacists' health support programme

Confidential help and support for pharmacists who experience problems with alcohol and other drugs of addiction 01926 315138

Listening friends scheme

Free confidential helpline for pharmacists under stress 020 7572 2442

Pharmaceutical press

Purchase of books and subscriptions to journals 01491 829272; fax 01491 829292; e-mail rpsgb@cabi.org; website www.pharmpress.com