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Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society  
of Great Britain

## Society welcomes measures to reduce violence in pharmacies

Moves by the NHS Security Management Service to reduce violence against pharmacy staff in England (*PJ*, 5 November 2005, p568) have been welcomed by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Practice Committee.

The committee was pleased to note that front-line pharmacy staff are among those able to take advantage of the conflict resolution training and other practical support offered by the NHS SMS to NHS staff at risk of attack from patients or customers.

The committee also agreed to recommend to the Society's English branches that they should invite local security management specialists to speak at branch meetings. The NHS SMS aims to have a local security management specialist (LSMS) in every primary care trust by the end of this summer, responsible for the investigation of security incidents, liaison with police and the implementation of systems to protect NHS staff.

The Practice Committee also noted the importance of using a proper incident reporting or record keeping procedure to log security incidents. It hopes that a specific reporting form will be developed for use in pharmacies when the national reporting scheme for physical and non-physical assaults is extended from secondary to primary care from April.

The committee's chairman, Sid Dajani, says: "Community pharmacists across Britain deal with millions of patients and customers every day and the Society welcomes the fact that they will be given support to protect themselves, their staff, premises and stock from violent or aggressive individuals. Conflict resolution training is a good first step but pharmacists should also be thinking about other security measures, such as personal alarms for staff and incorporating windows or panic buttons when designing consultation areas in their premises."

Welcoming the Society's interest, an NHS SMS spokesman said: "Conflict resolution is the biggest training programme ever developed by the NHS. Pharmacists are on the frontline of patient care in the NHS and need similar levels of protection to other staff."

The NHS SMS training centre arranges one-day conflict resolution training courses, held at local venues. The NHS SMS has also developed guidance for lone workers, which may be of interest to community pharmacists. Further information is available online at [www.cfsms.nhs.uk](http://www.cfsms.nhs.uk).

Information on tackling violence is also available in the most recent *Community Pharmacist* newsletter, published with the 26 November 2005 issue of *The Journal* and available through *PJ Online* ([www.pjonline.com](http://www.pjonline.com)).

This week

- **Violence in pharmacies**  
The Society's Practice Committee has welcomed moves by the NHS Security Management Service that should help to reduce violence against pharmacy staff in England (p149).
- **Society's dual role "a strength"**  
The Society's integrated roles are a strength that confers political influence and the opportunity to help shape the profession, says the Vice-President (p150).

## CPG to elect new committee

The Community Pharmacists Group of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society is looking for members willing to serve on the group committee.

All seven elected places become vacant at the end of May, and the group is seeking nominations for election by 18 March.

The group members currently serving on the committee are Jeremy Clitherow, John Hind, Caryl Kelly, Michael Levitan, Vanessa Taylor, Phillip Yelling and Gerald Zeidman. Two Council members, Davan Eustace and Andrew McCoig, also sit on the committee.

Elected members normally serve for three years. However, an impending review of membership group constitutions means that the term of office for committee members elected this year may be reduced.

**Official Notice, p151**

## Fee demands sent out

Statutory demands have now been issued to members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society who have not yet paid their retention fees for 2006. The fees were due on 1 January.

The demands give recipients a fixed period in which to pay, after which their names will be reported to the Council so that it can instruct the Registrar to erase them from the Register.

The Society's head of registration, Andrew Gardner, advises those who receive a statutory demand to pay their fees online at [www.rpsgb.org/payment](http://www.rpsgb.org/payment). Online payment gives the reassurance of a prompt electronic receipt confirming payment.

Mr Gardner adds that the ease of online payment has resulted in well over 18,000 online transactions, substantiating the earlier indications that the number of online payment would for the first time outstrip the number of cheque payments.

## Consultant chosen for communications review

An independent review of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's strategic communications is to be carried out for the Society by the consultancy Citigate Public Affairs.

Citigate has been chosen by a selection panel appointed by the Society's Officers after the Council agreed the scope and remit for the review at its December 2005 meeting (*PJ*, 17 December 2005, p758).

The review will be concluded at the end of April and will be reported to the Council as soon as possible thereafter.

The aim of the review is to ensure that the Society has in place all it needs to be an effective communicator at a time of great external change and in the light of devolution. The review will focus on making sure that the Society is able to get its messages across effectively to members, the public, the news

media and politicians, and it will examine the strategies, structures, ways of working and resources required to meet the Society's aims.

The Council agreed to commission a review at its October 2005 meeting (*PJ*, 22 October 2005, p531) in response to two motions carried at the Society's 2005 annual general meeting (*PJ*, 28 May, p661). The AGM had asked the Council to set up a communications committee and a membership committee, but Council members took the view that forming new committees was not the solution, since all Council committees had communications and membership elements and they should not be taken out and dealt with in isolation. Instead, the Council agreed that a review would be timely because of various current developments that had implications for the Society's communications activities.

# Confident but not complacent

The Society's integrated roles are a strength that confers political influence and the opportunity to help shape the profession's future, says Vice-President **Gerald Alexander**. As the Government deliberates on the future of health regulation, the Society is working to ensure that that this message is heard

**M**embers will for some time have been aware that the role and remit of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, along with all health professional regulators, has since June been under pointed scrutiny. The potential impact on the Society was highlighted last week (*PJ*, 28 January, p97).

Following the report of the Shipman inquiry, the chief medical officer for England, Sir Liam Donaldson, began a review of the UK regulation of doctors through the General Medical Council. A parallel review of the non-medical health regulators has been undertaken by the NHS director of human resources, Andrew Foster.

The Society successfully lobbied to be included in the group that was established to advise Mr Foster as he made his deliberations. We played an active part in the group because we were concerned to ensure that the outcomes of the review were evidence-based and would truly benefit patients.

## Useful contribution

We believe that we were able to contribute a great deal that was useful to the review with the aim of helping Mr Foster identify genuine improvements to health professional regulation. Having recently undergone the long and open process of self-scrutiny that led to the achievement of our new Royal Charter, the Society's members had already addressed many of the issues being explored through the review.

We brought a considerable amount of evidence and experience into the review and challenged the direction of travel where we thought that it was based on assumption rather than fact. We shared the work that we have done to modernise the Society in its roles as a regulatory body in line with best practice. We are convinced that our contribution helped stimulate and clarify thinking on crucial principles of modern regulation.

So where is all this leading? The answer is, we do not know. As the Minister of State for

quality and patient safety, Jane Kennedy, awaits the chief medical officer's recommendations before she pronounces on the outcome of both reviews, we can only make an educated guess at her intentions. At a meeting of the All-Party Pharmacy Group, the minister stated that her department's main focus in all of this is the handling of complaints, investigations and adjudication. However, we know that, during the course of the review, the integrated role of the Society was called into question on several occasions. This has now led to speculation about whether the Society will be allowed to continue to perform all its current roles.

## Achievement

We are confident, but not complacent, that the Society's record of achievement will ensure that the Government recognises the value of allowing us to continue to develop our current functions through both our newly updated Charter and the proposals for our new underpinning legislation. Indeed, recently, no less an advocate than the deputy director of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence, Julie Stone, has gone on record (*PJ*, 28 January, p97) to acknowledge that the Society manages its integrated roles in regulation, professional leadership and professional development in a way that is entirely consistent with the public interest.

Professor Stone's endorsement is welcome but, in fact, the legitimacy and acceptability of the Society's integrated roles are, of course, established for all to see in the 2004 Royal Charter. This document actually sets out the authority for the Society to fulfil all its current roles within one organisation. The granting of this new Charter was effectively an acknowledgement by the Government that the Society's roles are indeed compatible and acceptable. After over 160 years of continual development, the Charter showed that the Society was able and willing to take a big step in order to modernise and reform.

Nonetheless, we cannot rest on our laurels. We are working to ensure that the minister and others understand the Society's role and appreciate the many benefits of retaining the Society's identity as a regulator and professional development and leadership body.

## Powerful message

Our message is powerful, based on the evidence of our track record. We are already effective at protecting the public and have been proactive in identifying gaps in public protection which require new powers. We are actively preparing for our long-delayed new powers which the Government is to bring forward through its Section 60 Order under the Health Act 1999. The Society and the profession provide help and support to the public in many aspects of health care and we know that the profession has the public's trust and confidence. Our integrated roles enable us to progress the profession's role in ways that meet the real needs of patients, the aspirations of our members, in line with the policies of governments. Most importantly, all our functions — from education, registration, code of ethics, practice development, fitness to practise, science, membership networks, talking to the public and patients — combine to help keep the profession striving for ever higher standards.

So, we are confident that we have a successful, effective organisation and an important, dynamic profession. What is more, we know that pharmacists have the trust and support of the public. These are the messages we are sending to the Government and we hope that members will help reinforce them with their local opinion leaders. The next couple of months will be crucial. We shall be making communications materials available for branches and regions to use in their localities. Every member can play their part: every positive experience of pharmacists and pharmacy helps support our positive message: the Society is indeed fit for the future.

## Inquiry adjourned for investigation into discrepancy in evidence

An inquiry before the Statutory Committee has been adjourned because of the discovery that evidence appeared to have been tampered with.

The inquiry, which opened on 15 December 2005, concerned John Joseph George Barnes (registration number 62087), of Horsham, West Sussex. Mr Barnes admitted dispensing Picolax sachets against a prescription for MigraMax sachets and failing to

deal with the error appropriately when it came to light.

The committee heard that evidence included two copies of a reference from Mr Barnes's employer. One copy included the sentence: "Despite his disability, Mr Barnes has earned all of our customers' confidence." In the other copy, the first three words had been removed.

The chairman, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, said: "We take very real exception to any

reference that has been put before the Statutory Committee being tampered with in any way."

Giving the committee's determination, the chairman said that the committee found the misconduct proved but would adjourn the case for three months to find out about the disability, which might have a material bearing on what action by the committee was appropriate.

## 'Medicines, ethics and practice': February list of amendments

In the first issue of each month, *The Journal* updates the guidance on the legal status of medicines published in the 29th edition (July 2005) 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

Aloxi solution for injection POM	dry powder inhaler POM	Ketamine CD Benz POM	solvent for injection POM	UniChem Rehydration Treatment GSL
Apidra solution for injection POM	<b>Emla cream entry should read: Emla cream P</b>	Levonelle 1500 tablets POM	Octim nasal spray POM	Vantage chesty cough linctus P
Aptivus capsules POM	Enbrel injection POM	<b>Negaban powder for solution for injection/infusion POM</b>	Optrex Infected Eyes P	Vantage dry cough linctus P
Atimos Modulite inhaler POM	Fendrix hepatitis B (rDNA) vaccine POM	<b>Noxafil oral suspension POM</b>	Peptac Peppermint GSL	Vantage flu strength all in one P
Azilect tablets POM	Flomaxtra XL tablets POM	Numark chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops P	Prexige tablets POM	Varivax injection POM
Bonviva tablets POM	Fosavance tablets POM	Numark flu relief capsules GSL	Rectogesic rectal ointment POM	Viroflu vaccine POM
Chirocaine POM	Hedrin P	Numark max strength cold and flu sachets GSL	Reminyl XL capsules POM	Xolair POM
Clarosip granules for suspension POM	Inegy tablets POM	Octim injection POM	Seractyl tablets POM	Zonegran capsules POM
Diva tablets POM	<b>Kepivance powder for solution for injection POM</b>	Omalizumab powder and	Sodium citrate oral solution 0.3M (Viridian Pharma) POM	Zamadol 24hr tablets POM
Easyhaler beclometasone	Ketamine hydrochloride entry should read:		Tarceva tablets POM	Zolpidem tartrate entry should read: Zolpidem tartrate CD Benz POM
			Tipranivir capsules POM	

### 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](http://www.pjonline.com/notices)).

### Statutory Committee decisions

Set out below are the outcomes of inquiries heard before the Statutory Committee of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain on Monday 23 January, Tuesday 24 January, Wednesday 25 January and Thursday 26 January.

- The new inquiry into the case of **Mustafa Hakimuddin Bhajji** (registration number 1050805) was adjourned to a future date.
- In the resumed inquiry into the case of **Lubna Qayyum Khan** (registration number 1057173), the committee resolved to issue Miss Khan with a reprimand.
- In the new inquiry into **Andrew Mortara** (registration number F357), the committee resolved to adjourn until Monday 20 February 2006 to agree the terms of a written undertaking.
- In the new inquiry into the case of **Ramesh Mavji Patel** (registration number 90343) and **Judds (Chemists) Ltd** (identification number

1000754), the committee resolved to direct the Registrar to remove Mr Patel's name from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists. Under Section 11 of the Pharmacy Act 1954, this direction is not to take effect until the expiration of a period of three months from the date on which notice of removal is given or in a case where an appeal has been brought against the direction, until the appeal is determined or withdrawn. The committee resolved to take no further action in relation to Judds (Chemists) Ltd.

- The resumed inquiry into **Manherlal Keshavil Shah** (registration number 63471) and **MAM International Ltd** (identification number 1001688) was adjourned to a future date.

### David Gomez Secretary to the Statutory Committee

### Community Pharmacists Group Committee election 2006

The seven elected places on the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Community Pharmacists Group committee fall vacant at the end of May 2006.

Members of the Community Pharmacists Group are invited to nominate candidates for election to the group committee. Please note that candidates must be members of the group and that the group committee also includes two

members appointed from among the Council of the Society.

Nominations should be received by the secretary to the group by 18 March 2006. Each nomination must be signed by at least five members of the group.

Those accepting nomination as a candidate are asked to send their biographical details, with a statement of policy amounting to not more than 200 words.

Nomination forms are available from the secretary to the Community Pharmacists Group at the Society's headquarters and from the CPG section of the Society's website ([www.rpsgb.org](http://www.rpsgb.org)).

The election will be conducted using the single transferable vote system. Voting papers will be sent to the members of the group in April. The closing date for the receipt of voting papers will be noon on 12 May 2006.

Elected members of the group committee normally serve for three years. However, the structures supporting the Council will be reviewed as the reforms stemming from the Society's new Charter and the proposed new legislation are agreed and implemented. Depending on the timing and outcomes of this review, the term of office for members elected in this election might be reduced.

### Sadia Khan Secretary to the Community Pharmacists Group

### Council election 2006

Nominations for election as pharmacist members of Council in

unreserved places should be received by the head of central administration, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street London SE1 7JN, by noon on Friday 3 March 2006. Nominations for pharmacist members in the Council election must be signed by 10 pharmacist nominators.

There will be five vacancies for elected pharmacists, in unreserved places.

Nominees who are accepting nomination to the Council must enclose with the nomination form the declaration and undertaking for candidates for election to the Council, duly signed, a declaration of relevant interests, and a declaration of any relevant adverse decisions, as shown in the Council statement of policy on election procedures.

The deadline for receipt of all the supporting material, including the candidate's biographical details, photograph and election statement, is noon on Friday 3 March 2006.

All nominations must be made on an official nomination form. To obtain a nomination form and guidance papers, please contact the head of central administration (tel 020 7572 2204; e-mail [averil.ridgway@rpsgb.org](mailto:averil.ridgway@rpsgb.org)). The nomination form and the guidance papers are also available from the Council page in the "About the Society" section of the Society's website ([www.rpsgb.org/society](http://www.rpsgb.org/society)).

### Ann Lewis Secretary and Registrar

## DEATHS

**Bayliss** On 19 January, Leslie William Bayliss, MRPharmS, aged 90, of 19 Cliffords Way, Bourne End, Buckinghamshire SL8 5TR. Mr Bayliss registered in 1944.

**Dubois** On 29 January, Eric John Houston Dubois, MRPharmS, aged 74, of 7 Meadow Way, Marden, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9TH. Mr Dubois registered in 1962.

**Hall** On 13 September 2004, Letty Hall (née Wood), aged 91, of 9 Pear Tree Close, Marple Bridge, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 5ER. Mrs Hall registered in 1934 and retired from the Register in 2003.

## TRIBUTES

**Stone** In a tribute to the late Charles Mark Stone (*PJ*, 21 January, p91), MAURICE JACKSON writes: I was sorry to read of the death of C. M. Stone of Jersey at the age of 96. I qualified in 1953 and after completing my postgraduate apprenticeship at JR Cave Ltd, Southport, I applied and was successful in securing my first job at Mr Stone's pharmacy at 39/41 Bath Street, Jersey. "Charlie", as he was affectionately known by his peers, was probably the most successful pharmacist and businessman it has been my privilege to meet. He employed two pharmacists, four technicians, shop assistants, an optician and a photographic manager.

In those far-off days before the advent of a health service in Jersey, Stones Pharmacy would receive telephoned prescriptions after the doctors had completed their morning rounds. The patients' requirements were then delivered east and west of the island at lunchtime and in the evening. No other pharmacy offered a similar service and Stones Pharmacy quickly became the mainstay of the community and a benefactor to the health of the island.

Most of Charlie's original workforce has now passed on and his demise concludes the history of the most successful pharmacy the island is ever likely to know.

## DIARY

## 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](http://www.pjonline.com/diary))

## Monday 6 February

**Derby** "Update on diabetes" by Jane Hannah (diabetes specialist nurse) and Isabel Shorrocks (dietitian) followed by annual general meeting. Landau Forte College, Fox Street, Derby. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**East Kent** "Infections and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*" by a speaker from Sterilox. Courstairs Hotel, Ramsgate. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Southampton** "Technicians in pharmacy" by Janet Flint, Liz Bere and Jo Tizard. Rose Road Association, Southampton. Refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

## Tuesday 7 February

**Lancaster** "Insight into dementia" by Wyn Abbott (project officer, Dementia Training Awareness). Bluebell Hotel, Heversham, Milnthorpe. Refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Northern Scottish** "Provision of supervised methadone services in Highland" by Diana Black (Osprey House, Inverness). Golf View Hotel, Seabank Road, Nairn. 7.30pm. Refreshments.

**Sheffield** "Vaccines" by Alison Cope. EEF, Broomgrove Road, Sheffield. 7 for 7.30pm.

**Slough** "Nutritional supplements" by Katherine Fennell (nutrition marketing executive, Pharma Nord). John Lister Postgraduate Centre, (Entrance 4), Wexham Park Hospital. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

**Solihull** "Dispensing error reduction and fraud/counterfeit detection" by John Lawes (Aegate Ltd). SIMTR Conference Centre, BUPA Parkway Hospital, Solihull. Buffet 7.00pm, meeting 7.45pm.

**South Staffordshire** "Lipids and hypertension" by Mark Seaton.

The Barns, Cocksparrow Lane, Huntington, near Cannock. 7.30 for 8pm.

**South West Metropolitan** "The identification and treatment of common skin complaints" by Victoria Akhsar (specialist registrar in dermatology, St George's Hospital). Queen Mary's Postgraduate Medical Centre, Roehampton, London SW15. 7pm.

## Wednesday 8 February

**Harrogate** "St Michael's Hospice: update on treatments and facilities available to patients" by Sarah Minty (medical officer, St Michael's Hospice). Pharmacy Department, Fewston Wing, Harrogate District Hospital. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**West Metropolitan** "Preregistration matters: primary care trust pharmacy" by Chris Corfield, followed by "New pharmacy contract — one year on" by Andrew McCoig. Irish Centre, Blacks Road, Hammersmith. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

**West Cumberland** "The history of mining in Cumbria" by Ian Tyler (Keswick Mining Museum). Hundith Hill Hotel, near Cockermouth, followed by bar supper. 7.15 for 7.30pm.

## The Diary

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

## Thursday 9 February

**Bolton** Annual general meeting. Education Centre, Royal Bolton Hospital, Farnworth. Buffet. 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

## Monday 13 February

**Nottingham** "Asthma". School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham. Finger 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](mailto:enquiries@rpsgb.org); website [www.rpsgb.org](http://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](mailto:info@rpsis.com)

## Welsh Executive

Headquarters of the Society's Welsh Executive 029 2041 2800; fax 029 2041 2810; e-mail [wales@rpsgb.org](mailto:wales@rpsgb.org)

## Information centre

Book loans and information Library (loans, photocopies) 020 7572 2300; e-mail [library@rpsgb.org](mailto:library@rpsgb.org); Technical information, 020 7572 2302; fax 020 7572 2499; e-mail [techninfo@rpsgb.org](mailto:techninfo@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](mailto:ftp@rpsgb.org)

## Pharmaceutics information

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

Help from pharmacists trained in dealing with stress 020 7572 2442

## Pharmaceutical press

Purchase of books and subscriptions to journals 01767 604971; fax 01767 601640; [custserv@turpin-distribution.com](mailto:custserv@turpin-distribution.com); website [www.pharmpress.com](http://www.pharmpress.com)

Royal Pharmaceutical Society and British Society for the History of Pharmacy

### Evening lecture: Pharmacy at Chelsea

- **Date and time:** Wednesday 15 February, 6.30pm
- **Venue:** Royal Pharmaceutical Society, London
- **Title:** "Pharmacy at Chelsea: a century of change at Manresa Road"
- **Speaker:** Tony Theobald (King's College London)
- **Further information:** Admission is free, without advance booking. Refreshments will be served from 5.30pm. Non-members are welcome to attend