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Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society  
of Great Britain

## Council rejects PC advisers' further advice on national pharmacy boards

The Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has unanimously rejected a new suggestion by advisers to the Privy Council that pharmacy technician members of the English and Welsh pharmacy boards should be eligible to chair the boards.

At its special **September Council meeting**, the Council also agreed to express to the Clerk to the Privy Council its displeasure at having now received a third batch of Privy Council demands for changes to the draft regulations, forcing it to hold an additional formal Council meeting before the Society could submit the draft regulations to the Privy Council for approval.

Introducing the Privy Council advisers' requests, the Society's head of corporate governance, Christine Gray, said that, although the advisers wanted the Council to reconsider eligibility for board chairmanship, they were not insisting on such a change as a condition of recommending the regulations for approval.

Jonathan Buisson said that there was no need for a change. The Council had already made clear that the boards would have an opportunity to examine themselves and their structures at a later date.

Douglas Simpson said that it would be inappropriate for any of the boards, as the representative arms of the Society, to be chaired by a technician. The technicians had their own representative association.

Stephen Denyer said that the boards were not representative bodies but part of the Society's professional leadership. The support staff component was an important part of that body. Although the Council should make no change at present, it should take note of the direction the Privy Council was asking it to look towards.

Lesley Morgan said that the pharmacy technician Council members were there to support the profession but not to take leadership. She supported everything that had been said. It was not an appropriate way forward.

The President then put to the vote a proposal that the status quo should remain. The proposal was carried unanimously.

The Council also considered a number of amendments to the draft regulations that the Privy Council advisers did insist upon. The most significant were adjustments to prevent co-opted pharmacist members of the Scottish or Welsh pharmacy boards from becoming

chairman or vice-chairman and to clarify that the Council could only delegate powers or functions to the boards that were within categories specified in the regulations. The other changes were small drafting points.

After debate, the Council agreed to all these amendments.

Commenting on the fact that Council members had had to deal with three separate batches of amendments from Privy Council advisers, John Hanlon said that any resentment was understandable. It had to be fed back to the Privy Council that it was not an acceptable way to deal with the Society.

The President said that a letter would be sent indicating the Council's displeasure. Such behaviour aroused suspicions in people's minds and caused confusion.

The Secretary and Registrar said that the Society had recently met Privy Council staff and advisers because that way of working was unacceptable. There had recently been significant changes both in the solicitors who advise the Privy Council and in the civil servants who provide policy advice. A clear process had now been agreed and problems should not occur again.

Mrs Gray said that practically everyone who had been involved in the process at the Privy Council had now moved on. Although there might be some delay while the new people got up to speed, she hoped they would get the situation right in the future.

The Vice-President said that at the August meeting, which he had chaired in the absence of the President, the Council had agreed that a letter would be sent to the Privy Council. He recalled agreeing its text but he now understood that the letter had not been sent.

The Secretary and Registrar said that the Council had agreed that the letter would be accompany the submission of the draft regulations.

Graham Phillips said that the Council should not dwell on the past. If the people responsible have gone and the Society will be working with a new team, that team should be bound into a proper commitment.

Ending the debate, the President said: "All the points relating to our anger and frustration at being messed around are now fully understood. I hope you will leave it to me to express things the way I can. I know that emotions build up but we do need to move on."

This week

### ■ National pharmacy boards

The Council has had to hold a special meeting to consider a third batch of Privy Council advisers' amendments to the draft regulations governing the future national pharmacy boards. The Council rejected a suggestion that pharmacy technician board members should be eligible to chair national boards (p375).

### September Council meeting

The Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society held an additional formal meeting in London on 14 September 2006 to consider further Privy Council requests to amend the draft regulations governing national pharmacy boards. The reports on this page and the following page will be supplemented in due course by a verbatim transcript of the meeting's open session published on the Society's website along with relevant agendas, supporting papers and minutes. **Attendance** Those present at the meeting were the President (Hemant Patel), the Vice-President (Gerald Alexander), Seema Agha, Martin Astbury, Jonathan Buisson, Sultan Dajani, Stephen Denyer, Dorothy Drury, Phillida Entwistle, Davan Eustace, John Gentle, Andrew Gush, John Hanlon, Corinne Hunt, Ray Jobling, Alan Kershaw, Lesley Morgan, Graham Phillips, Colin Ranshaw, Marcia Saunders, Douglas Simpson, David Thomson, Stephen Wells and the Secretary and Registrar (Ann Lewis). Also present was the chairman of the Welsh Executive (Peter Jones). **Apologies** Apologies for absence were received from the Treasurer (John Jolley), David Carter, Brian Curwain, Sylvia Hinks, Lorna Jacobs, Bob Michell and Michael Schofield. An apology was also received from the chairman of the Society's Scottish Executive (Rose Marie Parr).

### Council to discuss S60 Order

At the special **September Council meeting**, a proposal to take a new look at the Pharmacy and Pharmacy Technicians Order under Section 60 of the Health Act 1999 was put forward by Dorothy Drury.

Mrs Drury believed that the Council needed to consider recent developments in the profession, including comments made at the British Pharmaceutical Conference during the session addressed by the chief pharmaceutical officers and advisers for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (*PJ*, 9 September, p313).

The Council agreed that it would not consider the matter as part of its formal meeting but would hold an informal discussion.

## Appointments to English national board will not precede board elections

A suggestion that the two members of the English pharmacy board appointed by the Council should be chosen before the first election of board members has been narrowly rejected by the Council.

At the special **September Council meeting**, the Society's head of corporate governance, Christine Gray, reminded the Council that, under the draft regulations governing the national pharmacy boards, the English board would include one pharmacist member of Council with a registered address in England and one lay member of Council resident in England — both appointed by the Council. The Council member elected to the Council to represent the constituency of England, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, Jonathan Buisson, would automatically be a member and the remaining 12 members would be elected. Since the process of electing board members could not begin before the Privy Council had approved the regulations, it might be sensible for the Council to make its two appointments at its October meeting, before the closing date for

nominations for election. This would avoid the possibility of a pharmacist Council member being both appointed and elected to the board.

Graham Phillips suggested that it would be more logical for the Council to wait until the election process had bottomed out before deciding whom to appoint.

Jonathan Buisson, opposing Mr Phillips's suggestion, said that the board should be up and running to its full capacity as soon as possible. The Council had already seen far too many delaying tactics.

Stephen Denyer said that the Council might wish to appoint someone to the board to fulfil a particular type of role which the Council believed that person would do well. If everyone was subjected to election first and the person that Council may have wished to put forward secured the lowest number of votes, that would not negate the worth of Council decision but it would certainly undermine the authority and potential for that person to contribute properly. For that reason it would be an uncomfortable arrangement.

John Gentle said that he rejected that suggestion for exactly the same reason. If a Council member put himself or herself forward for appointment but was not selected, that would become common knowledge and people might be deterred from voting for someone who was seen as having already been rejected by the Council.

Martin Astbury said that he favoured delaying the appointments until after the election of board members. If a Council member who had sought election to the board received a low vote, the Council would be able to take that fact into account when deciding who was the right person to fill the gap.

The President then put to a vote the proposal that the appointments should be made in October. There were 10 votes in favour and 10 against.

The President declared that the proposal had failed. The appointments would be made at the March 2007 Council meeting or possibly at a formal session during a Council strategy day in February 2007.

## Members' views sought on Society's future

The Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society is eeking input from its members into its response to the two Department of Health reviews of the regulation of health professionals. Members have until 9 October to make their contributions.

The reviews are those of the General Medical Council by chief medical officer Sir Liam Donaldson and of all other regulators by former Department of Health workforce director Andrew Foster. Both review reports can be accessed from the consultations pages of the Department of Health website ([www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)).

The Council has been taking an in-depth look at the options for the Society's future and recently held the second in a series of meetings to consider its responses to the reviews.

The Society's President, Hemant Patel, said: "There are many issues to consider in both the Foster and Donaldson reports, with the future role and remit of the Society as a fundamental issue of concern. There are different views on how best to go forward and we shall of course consider the range of opinion from all stakeholders and members, including through our branches and regions.

"It is important that the Council has every opportunity to consider all the possible options because the profession's development needs to be supported by strong professional leadership as well as robust regulation. The Foster review lays down challenges in this regard but also the opportunity to build on our strengths and the Council is committed

to arriving at the best outcome for the profession and the public we serve.

"Throughout both reviews, we submitted evidence-based arguments on a wide range of issues. These submissions were well-received and influential because their analysis was clear and based on facts. Our recent Council meeting produced a day of clear thinking and mature discussion on the range of options. I am confident that, following our final discussion, our response will demonstrate a full, evidence-based analysis of the best way forward."

The Society's response, which must be submitted to the Department of Health by 10 November, is being developed over the next few weeks. The Council discussed the main issues in the Foster report at its reserve day on 14 September (see p367). It will have two further opportunities to discuss and finalise the response — at the Council meeting on 10 and 11 October, and the reserve days on 1 and 2 November.

The Society says that it wants to involve the membership as fully as possible in drawing up the response. More than 80 pharmacy groups and organisations have been contacted, as have all members of the Society's special interest groups. There will be a mailing to branches plus information on the Society's website ([www.rpsgb.org](http://www.rpsgb.org)), inviting members of the profession and other stakeholders to send in their views and comments.

Comments should be sent to Karen Turnham, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (e-mail [karen.turnham@rpsgb.org](mailto:karen.turnham@rpsgb.org)) to arrive by noon on Monday 9 October.

### Listening Friends

The Listening Friends Scheme offers free telephone help to pharmacists under stress. A call to the scheme will put you in touch with a fellow pharmacist who will be there to give time to talk about the problems causing the stress. Listening Friends have insight into the particular pressures that apply in pharmacy but can also help with problems not related to work, such as illness, disability, bereavement and relationship issues, all of which can place strain and stress on an individual at any time in life.

The service is run by a team of volunteer pharmacists, who are all mature and experienced professionals in their field of practice. They have all been trained in listening skills and may be able to direct pharmacists under stress to more specialist help if needed.

Contact with the Listening Friends is made initially by telephoning 020 7572 2442 where a voicemail answering service will take details of a first name, a telephone number and a convenient time to call. A Listening Friend will then call back, usually on the evening of the same day or within 24 hours. Arrangements will be made to make further calls if the pharmacist would like some additional telephone time with the Listening Friend.

The scheme is supported by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Benevolent Fund and is part of the fund's aims in supporting pharmacists in need.

For additional information about the scheme, or the fund and the services it offers, call 01327 264739 or 01323 890135 or e-mail [benevolent.fund@rpsgb.org](mailto:benevolent.fund@rpsgb.org)

## Law and ethics bulletin

# Technical errors on Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drug prescriptions

Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 enable a pharmacist to make changes to prescriptions for Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs except temazepam (see below) in certain circumstances where the prescription does not comply with the CD prescription requirements but where the prescriber's intentions are absolutely clear, provided that the pharmacist:

- Having exercised due diligence, is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the prescription is genuine;
- Having exercised all due diligence, is satisfied on reasonable grounds that he is supplying the drug in accordance with the intention of the person issuing the prescription;
- Amends the prescription in ink or otherwise indelibly to correct the minor typographical errors or spelling mistakes so that the prescription complies with Regulation 15 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 (which requires the total quantity to be in both words and figures); and
- Marks the prescription so that the amendment he has made under

subparagraph (c) is attributable to him.

The only errors that pharmacists may amend are:

- Minor spelling mistakes
- Minor typographical mistakes
- Where the total quantity of the preparation of the CD or the number of dosage units as the case may be is specified in either words or figures but not both, ie, either the words or the figures can be added to the CD prescription if one or the other has been omitted

There are currently no provisions for pharmacists to make changes other than those outlined above and where any other omissions or errors are made, eg, the prescriber has omitted the dose or strength, the prescription should be returned to the prescriber for amendment.

The pharmacist must ensure that the prescription is marked so that the amendment made is attributable to him or her. The Regulations do not specify exactly how the prescription should be marked. For example, a

pharmacist may choose to write his or her name or registration number or signature on the prescription or could alternatively place an asterisk by the change and place a footnote on the prescription.

Where an amendment is made by one pharmacist (A) and a second pharmacist (B) makes a supply — for example, because there is an owing — both pharmacists must be satisfied of the integrity of the prescription. Although pharmacist B does not have to duplicate the amendment made by pharmacist A, they must satisfy themselves that the prescription is genuine and that they are supplying in accordance with the prescriber's intention. The Home Office has stated that in this situation Pharmacist B should also mark the prescription to indicate that the amendment is attributable to himself as well as Pharmacist A.

Temazepam is excluded from this change because it is exempted from the CD prescription requirements (eg, requirement for total quantity to be expressed in words and figures) that apply to all other Schedule 2 and 3 CDs.

### 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 Inquiries

The Statutory Committee will meet at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1, at 9.30am on Monday 25 September, Tuesday 26 September, Wednesday 27 September and Thursday 28 September 2006 to hear the following inquiries:

- The new inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Samuel Edwin Ashby** (registration number R6879), which alleges that a number of dispensing errors; unprofessional behaviour

towards members of staff, on occasion in the presence of customers; the removal of patient returned medicines for his own use; the use of medicines not prescribed for him; a failure to assist a patient appropriately; the use of aggressive and offensive language towards an inspector and a pharmacist adviser of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society; the dispensing of medicinal products otherwise than in accordance with a prescription; a failure to read the Code of Ethics; the physical assault of a member of staff; and a failure to co-operate with the Society's investigation into the above incident, may individually or cumulatively amount to misconduct.

- The committee will resume the inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Korush Jalali Farahani** (registration number 1067185), which alleges that the theft of a number of codeine phosphate tablets from a pharmacy while

working as a locum pharmacist, the possession of 14 Kapake capsules which had not been prescribed for him, and the consumption of codeine phosphate tablets and Kapake capsules while working as a locum pharmacist, may amount to misconduct. The committee will also consider a conviction for the theft of 40 codeine phosphate 30mg tablets and 14 Zolpidem tartrate 10mg tablets of a value unknown belonging to Superdrug Plc, contrary to Sections 1(1) and 7 of the Theft Act 1968.

- The committee will deliver the determination of the inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Omotayo Enitan Adekaiyaoja** (registration number 1062304), **Martyn James Hardy** (registration number 71137) and Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd (identification number 1003528). In relation to Mr Adekaiyaoja, the Council alleged that the supply of

methadone mixture otherwise than in accordance with the direction on a prescription; a number of erroneous supplies made by Mr Adekaiyaoja or while he was the pharmacist in charge; the signing of a dispensing label using the initials of another pharmacist; and a poor understanding of diabetes and its treatment, individually or cumulatively may have amounted to misconduct. In relation to Mr Hardy, the Council alleged that a failure as superintendent pharmacist to exercise adequate control over a Sainsbury's Pharmacy may have amounted to misconduct. In relation to Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd, the Council alleged that the above allegations against Mr Adekaiyaoja and Mr Hardy may have, individually or cumulatively, amounted to misconduct.

**David Gomez**  
Secretary to the Statutory Committee

## Pay your retention fee by direct debit

Sign up to pay your Royal Pharmaceutical Society retention fee annually by direct debit, which is available to both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians but only for those on the practising registers.

You can download a direct debit mandate form from [www.rpsgb.org/registrationandsupport/registration/paymentoffees.html](http://www.rpsgb.org/registrationandsupport/registration/paymentoffees.html). The form should be returned to the registration division by 31 October.

Those without internet access can obtain copies of the mandate form by contacting the Registration Section, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2322; fax 020 7572; e-mail [registration@rpsgb.org](mailto:registration@rpsgb.org)).

## DEATHS

**Graham** Recently, Kenneth Graham, MRPharmS, aged 84, of 14 Hoylake Avenue, Fixby Park, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD2 2NT. Mr Graham registered in 1949.

**Minns** On 18 November 2005, Nina Minns, MRPharmS, aged 77, of 34 Cophall Road East, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 8SE. Mrs Minns registered in 1953.

**Thomas** On 26 June, Emlyn Anarawd Thomas, MRPharmS, aged 82, of 69 Maes-y-Castell, Llanrhos, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 1NB. Mr Thomas registered in 1946.

**Wherry** On 23 August, Eric Victor Howard Granville Wherry, MRPharmS, aged 86, of 29 Dunmore Court, Dunmore Drive, Shaldon, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 0BS. Mr Wherry registered in 1943.

**Williams** On 18 September, Thomas Burton Williams, aged 90, of 10 The Rocks, Hereford Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 7QU. Mr Williams registered in 1940 and retired from the Register in 2003. He was a former group chief pharmacist to the Shrewsbury Group Hospital Management Committee. He was designated a fellow of the Society in 1981 for distinction in the practice of pharmacy.

## DIARY

### Headquarters meetings

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

**Monday 25 September**  
Statutory Committee. 9.30am.

**Tuesday 26 September**  
Law and Ethics Committee. 9am  
Statutory Committee. 9.30am.

**Wednesday 27 September**  
Audit Committee 8.30am.  
Statutory Committee. 9.30am.

**Thursday 28 September**  
Statutory Committee. 9.30am.

### 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 25 September**  
**Bury and Rochdale** "Awareness of drug counterfeiting and technology to fight against it" by Andrew Gill (Aegate Ltd). Village Hotel, Rochdale Road, Bury (off M66 at Junction 2). 7.30 for 8pm.

### Cheltenham and Gloucester

"Cardiovascular" by Jim Moore. 6 Pitville Lawn, Cheltenham. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8.15pm.

**Durham** "Antidepressants: is there a difference?" by Angus Bell. Hallgarth Hotel, Coatham Mundeville. 7.30pm followed by buffet.

**Wednesday 27 September**  
**Bedfordshire** "Cholesterol testing". AstraZeneca (UK) Ltd, Horizon Place, 600 Capability Green, Luton. Buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

**Reading** "Tuberculosis" by Joan Thomas (consultant) and Tracey Langham (clinical nurse specialist). Royal Berkshire Hospital, Trust Education Centre. Preregistration trainees and new members from 7pm. Royal Berkshire Hospital, Trust Education Centre. 7.30 for 8pm.

**Warrington** "Flu pandemic awareness" by Clive Moss-Barclay (director, pharmacy education, Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority). Fir Grove Hotel, Grappenhall, Warrington. 8pm.

**Thursday 28 September**  
**Harrogate** "Pandemic flu: how will you cope?" by Kath Banfield

## The Diary

Announcements of 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.

(senior infection control advisor, Harrogate Hospital). Seminar Room, Fewston Wing, Harrogate District Hospital. Light buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.  
**Ipswich and Suffolk** "Treatment of dementia" by Jon Darley (consultant psychiatrist, Older People's Mental Health Services, and medical director, Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust). Windmill Room, Holiday Inn, Ipswich. Refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Monday 2 October**  
**Crawley, Horsham and Reigate** "Gastrointestinal disease" by Jonathan Stenner (consultant physician). Moat House Hotel, Povey Cross Road, Horley. Refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

## PERSONAL

This column is intended for announcements of births, engagements, marriages, anniversaries, etc. The charge for an insertion is £25 for up to 30 words, and £10 for every additional 10 or fewer words. Personal cheques only (payable to *The Pharmaceutical Journal*) should be sent with the notice to the Editor, *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN. The sender's address and membership number, if applicable, should be on the reverse of the cheque.

## Births

**Hope** Judith (née Rennie) (ex-RGIT 1985-89) and Stephen are delighted to announce the birth of their third son, Gregor Alasdair, on 6 July. A brother for Fraser and Rory. Now at Woodmansterne, 23 Kingsmills Road, Inverness IV2 3JX.



## 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 [techinfo@rpsgb.org](mailto: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](mailto:ftp@rpsgb.org)

**Pharmaceutics information**  
Information, advice and problem-solving in pharmaceutics 020 7572 2302; fax 020 7572 2499; e-mail [pharmaceutics@rpsgb.org](mailto:pharmaceutics@rpsgb.org)

**Benevolent fund**  
Financial help for pharmacists and their dependants and information about convalescence 01327 264739 or 01323 890135

**Pharmacists' health support programme**  
Confidential help and support for pharmacists who experience problems with alcohol and other drugs of addiction 01327 264531

**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)