

For personal use only. Not to be reproduced without permission of the editor (permissions@pharmj.org.uk)



Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain

Survey finds pharmacy education in UK handicapped by science status

Pharmacy education in the UK suffers in comparison with other UK health care disciplines and with pharmacy education in comparable countries overseas because it is treated as a science degree rather than a clinical qualification, a research project commissioned by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has found.

The project, "Health care professional education and training: how does UK pharmacy compare?", was carried out by David Wright and Martin Loftus from the school of chemical sciences and pharmacy at the University of East Anglia.

Presenting the results of their work to a meeting of the Council's Education Committee on 22 November, Dr Wright and Dr Loftus explained that the project had compared pharmacy education in the UK with medicine, dentistry and optometry in the UK, and with pharmacy education in Australia, New Zealand, the US and Canada. One of their main conclusions was that UK pharmacy education, being classed as a

science degree rather than a science/clinical degree, is funded at a far lower level than its health care equivalents in the UK.

They also found that pharmacy education overseas treats the professional aspects of pharmacy as a central element of the degree course — partly because pharmacy is seen as a clinical profession rather than a science discipline.

Another finding was that other health care educators in the UK and pharmacy educators in comparable countries use more placements to allow students to experience real-life situations. They also use more competence-based assessments than in UK pharmacy education, where traditional methods like examinations are used more.

The committee heard that the Society's Academic Pharmacy Group was to devote its next seminar to the research project. The seminar is on 12 January 2007 at the Society's London headquarters and anyone wishing to attend should contact Florita Sanz (e-mail florita.sanz@rpsgb.org).

This week

Pharmacy education

Pharmacy education in the UK compares unfavourably with UK education in other health care disciplines and with pharmacy education in comparable countries overseas, according to research carried out on behalf of the Society (p671).

Law and Ethics Bulletin

Changes to legislation controlling the return and storage of waste medicines in Scotland are outlined in a Law and Ethics Bulletin item this week. A second item discusses the effect of restrictions prohibiting some pharmacists educated abroad from being in personal control of a pharmacy that has been open for less than three years (p673).

Accreditation soon for independent prescribing conversion courses

The first batch of courses accredited for pharmacist independent prescribers is shortly to be announced by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

The first courses will be conversion courses for existing supplementary prescribers.

At its meeting on 22 November, the Council's Education Committee heard that an announcement about the first tranche was expected during the week commencing 4 December.

CPD helpdesk withdraws out-of-hours service

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is to withdraw the out-of-hours service provided on a trial basis by the continuing professional development telephone helpdesk.

The decision was made by the Council's Education Committee at its 22 November meeting. The committee agreed that the decision would be reviewed when CPD becomes statutory and the out-of-hours reinstated if there is a need for it.

The committee heard that for 12 weeks the Society had added evening and weekend slots to the helpdesk's core opening hours of 9.30am to 4.30pm from Monday to Friday.

However, during the trial only 94 calls were received — at a cost per call of nearly £60 — and 90 of the 94 users said that they would use the service during the core hours if necessary.

Charges to be introduced for hard copies of Society's continuing professional development materials

Charges are to be introduced for continuing professional development materials supplied as hard copy to members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

At its meeting on 22 November, the Council's Education Committee heard that the Society's current practice has been to supply unlimited amounts of hard copy CPD material on request with no charge to

members. This has been a costly exercise, especially when members request multiple copies. The committee noted that all CPD materials can be accessed free from the CPD page on the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/registrationandsupport) and agreed that in future members should be charged for replacement hard copies unless they provide good reason why they should not be.

The branch network

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

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

New book on administration of drugs via enteral feeding tubes

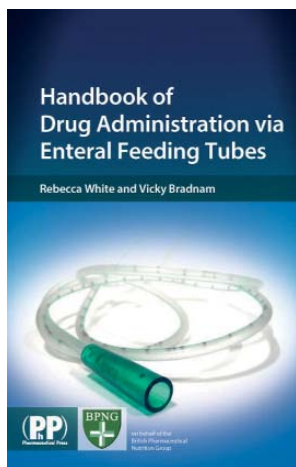
A new handbook on the administration of drugs by means of enteral feeding tubes is now available from the Pharmaceutical Press (the book imprint of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's publications division, RPS Publishing).

The book has been published as a practical guide to the safe administration of medicines via enteral feeding tubes. It is aimed at doctors, nurses, dietitians, carers in nursing homes and hospices as well as pharmacists.

The book includes 10 chapters of background knowledge to inform clinical decisions and 343 monographs contain guidance on the safe administration of specific drugs and formulations. The contents include types of enteral feeding tubes, tube flushing, restoring and maintaining patency of the tubes, drug therapy review, medication formulation choice, unlicensed use of medicines, health and safety and clinical risk management, and defining interactions.

'Handbook of drug administration via enteral feeding tubes' has been written by two pharmacists — Rebecca White, of the pharmacy department at Middlesex Hospital, London, and Vicky Bradnam (on behalf of the British Pharmaceutical Nutrition Group), of the pharmacy department at Princess Royal University Hospital, Kent.

The 592-page paperback book costs £39.95. UK orders can be placed by telephone (01767 604 971), fax (01767 601 640) or e-mail (rps@turpin-distribution.com) or through the Pharmaceutical Press website (www.pharmpress.com).



Martindale and other health texts to be available online in China

A range of drug and health care reference materials, including Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference, is to be made available online in China.

RPS Publishing, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's publishing division, has announced an agreement with the National Science and Technology Library in Beijing to provide MedicinesComplete to academic institutions in China.

MedicinesComplete is a comprehensive online service offering access to evaluated drug information and up-to-date clinical information for pharmacists, clinicians, analytical chemists, physicians, nurses, researchers, librarians, pharmaceutical companies and information professionals.

In addition to Martindale, MedicinesComplete includes the British National Formulary, the BNF for Children, 'Stockley's drug interactions', 'Herbal medicines', the 'Handbook of pharmaceutical excipients', 'Dietary supplements', 'Clarke's analysis of drugs and poisons' and the American Hospital Formulary Service's 'AHFS Drug Information'.

MedicinesComplete contains over 100,000 references to worldwide original research, scientific papers, guidelines, meta-analyses, systematic reviews, reports and case studies.

The deal has been arranged in collaboration with Charlesworth China, a subsidiary of the Charlesworth Group, a global supplier of services to the scholarly publishing sector. The group's services include data capture and conversion, translation, copy-editing and typesetting.

Charles Fry, managing director of RPS Publishing, said: "This initiative forms part of our overall drive to expand the global reach of our products.

"By using the services of the Charlesworth Group, our work in China will enable a wider academic community to benefit from access to our extensive resources."

MEP: December 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

Abilify tablets entry should read: Abilify preparations POM
Acomplia tablets POM
Anadin Ultra Double Strength capsules P
Baraclude tablets POM
Bisodol Extra tablets GSL
Champix tablets POM
Clairette 2000/35 POM
Clenil Modulite inhaler POM
Competact tablets POM
Detrunorm XL capsules POM
DulcoEase capsules GSL
Emselex tablets POM
Erdotin capsules POM
Etopan XL tablets POM
Evoltra solution for infusion POM

Evotrox oral solution POM
Exjade dispersible tablets POM
Exubera insulin POM
Metoject injections POM
Gardisil suspension for injection POM
Ibuprofen entry: after "in the case of liquid preparations of ibuprofen, individual unit doses of not more than 5ml each to a maximum of 20 unit doses GSL;" add "ibuprofen oral suspension with a strength of 2% or less, supplied in multidose containers of not more than 100ml, GSL;"
Infanrix-IPV+Hib POM
Loratidine entry: change "and in children aged 12

years and over" to "and in children aged two years and over and weighing 30kg or more"
Metsol oral solution POM
Nexavar tablets POM
Nicorette microtab entry should read: Nicorette Microtab GSL
Penciclovir entry should read: Penciclovir POM, but as 1% cream for treatment of cold sores in adults and children over 12 years P
Pretact POM
Prialt solution for infusion POM
Sprycel tablets POM
Sutent capsules POM
Tysabri solution for infusion POM

Christmas and New Year closures

London The London headquarters of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society will close for the Christmas holiday at 4pm on Friday 22 December and reopen at 9am on Thursday 28 December. It will close for the New Year holiday at 4pm on Friday 29 December and reopen at 9am on Tuesday 2 January 2007.

The library at the London headquarters will be closed between noon and 2.30pm on 15 December. It will suspend its Thursday late opening from 22 December and will close for the Christmas holiday at 3.30pm on Friday 22 December. The library will open from 9am to 5pm on Thursday 28 December and from 9am to 3.30pm on Friday 29 December. It will reopen as normal from Tuesday 2 January 2007, except that the usual Thursday late opening (10am to 7pm) will not be restored until 11 January 2007.

Edinburgh The House of the Society's Scottish Department in Edinburgh will close at 4pm on Friday 22 December and reopen at 9am on Wednesday 3 January 2007.

Cardiff The Society's Welsh Executive office in Cardiff will close at 5pm on Friday 22 December and reopen at 9am on Tuesday 2 January 2007.

Pharmacy information on the internet

A huge amount of information relevant to the practice of pharmacy is available online at the click of a button. This article highlights some evaluated, quality internet resources as suggested by **Karen Poole** and **Sarah Butler** of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Information Centre

With many pharmacists able to access the internet at work, home, at the Society libraries in London and Edinburgh or free at their local public library, a huge amount of information is available online at the click of a button. However, time pressures and the need for an immediate answer can lead to reliance on sources that may not always be trustworthy. This article highlights some evaluated, quality internet resources.

Search for quality Have you ever searched using a search engine only to retrieve hundreds of pages of results, become overwhelmed with the number of possibilities returned and then taken the first answer you are given regardless of its quality? One solution is to use subject specific gateways and databases, both of which are searchable by keyword, to ensure that you are accessing credible and accurate information online.

The start for any search should be the Society's library catalogue (olib.rpsgb.org). We list not only books, CD-ROMs and videos held in the library but also websites and PDF files of complete publications that can be accessed immediately. The library now also provides a list of key authoritative sites relevant to the subject of pharmacy (including

Key terms

The following are key terms to remember when evaluating any resource:

- **Accuracy:** is the information reliable and error free?
- **Authority:** are the authors reputable?
- **Objectivity:** is the resource biased in any way?
- **Currency:** is the resource kept up to date?
- **Coverage:** how in-depth is the material?

those discussed in this article) on its web pages. You can find these at www.rpsgb.org/informationresources/library/fpii.

Another key database is PubMed (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez). This contains over 16 million citations from Medline and other life science journals for biomedical articles back to the 1950s, and includes links to full text articles and other related resources. If you require evidence-based practice resources, including articles, patient information leaflets and medical images then consider the TRIP database (www.tripdatabase.com). A significant gateway to evaluated, authoritative internet resources in health and medicine is the health

and life sciences section of Intute (www.intute.ac.uk/healthandlifesciences). Pharmacists may also be able to access electronic resources through the NHS's own gateway, Core Content. Details of which journals and databases can be accessed and how to register is available at www.nelh.nhs.uk/home_use.asp. Community pharmacists should contact their local primary care trust to register.

Good information is not always free

Many publishers who produce accurate and objective material may only make it available online after a certain period. For the full text version of current information you may face a charge. In some cases an abstract of a relevant article will be available online and may be enough for your needs. If not, contact the library and we will help you obtain it.

Choice of search engine

Google is an excellent search engine, which is why so many people use it. However, other search engines are available. Consider using Scirus (www.scirus.com), which focuses on scientific information, or Google Scholar (scholar.google.com), which focuses on scholarly literature. A metasearch engine will cross-search many popular search engines at the same time

Survey of the electronic information needs of members of the Society

The library of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society now has the technological capabilities to make information available via the internet to its members and registrants. We can provide access to journals, to medicines information and to bibliographic databases in this way.

Normally these services would require a paid subscription. All can be available through us via the internet and therefore accessible to you from wherever you have internet access, be this at home, at work or in a public library.

However, before we can explore ways of providing these services, we would first like to ask you whether you would use such resources if they were available to you.

It is important to us that as a library we provide for your information needs as effectively as possible. To do this, we need your help. Please take five minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to: The Library, RPSGB, 1 Lambeth High Street, London, SE1 7JN. Alternatively the questionnaire is available in electronic form on the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/informationresources/library/electinfoquestionnaire.html).

The closing date for this survey is 1 February 2007.

Prize draw

To thank you for taking the time to talk to us we would like to offer you the opportunity to enter a draw to win £50 worth of Pharmaceutical Press books. If you would like to enter the draw, please complete your contact information in the comments box on the reverse side of this form.

ABOUT YOU

1. Are you a (select one) ...

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pharmacist | <input type="checkbox"/> | Adjudicating | |
| Registered | | student | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| pharmacy | | MPharm student | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| technician | ... <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify) | |
| Preregistration | | | |
| trainee | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

2. Which sector do you work in? (select one)

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Community | <input type="checkbox"/> | Primary care | |
| Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> | trust | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify) | |
| Academia | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Veterinary | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

3. Do you have access to a library other than the Society's library?

Yes No

If yes, which of the following apply? (select all that apply)

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Academic | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify) | |
| NHS | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Public | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

YOUR USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

4. Do you have access to the internet?

Yes No

If yes, which of the following apply? (select all that apply)

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| At home | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify) | |
| At work | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

5. Do you use the internet to find information to support your work and continuing professional development (CPD) activity? (please select)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| Work: Yes, frequently | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yes, sometimes | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| CPD: Yes, frequently | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yes, sometimes | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

producing a wider range of results. See ixquick (www.ixquick.com) for an example of a metasearch engine. And finally, consider trying Exalead (www.exalead.com), a powerful search engine that gives you the option of refining your search with related terms.

Open access journals Many peer reviewed journals publish back issues on their websites. In some cases, as with *The Pharmaceutical Journal* (www.pjonline.com), they are open access and you can see current content. PubMed Central (www.pubmedcentral.gov) is the US National Institutes of Health free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature. Also available is the Directory of Open Access Journals (www.doaj.org), listing free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals. In other cases access is restricted to older material, with delays for accessing current material of up to a year being common. Examples of these include the *BMJ* (bmj.bmjournals.com), *The Lancet* (www.thelancet.com) and Bandolier (www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier). If you have identified an article that you wish to obtain it is always worth searching for the journal's website to see if it has granted free access to it.

Drug information/technical information

Also available online are resources that will help to answer specific scientific and technical queries. The Electronic Medicines Compendium (emc.medicines.org.uk) provides free electronic data sheets, summaries of product characteristics and patient information leaflets. The British National Formulary can be

accessed at www.bnf.org (free registration required). Practical, reliable, evidence-based guidance is available from Prodigy (www.prodigy.nhs.uk) and from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (www.publichealth.nice.org.uk). A useful tool is the National Library for Health Guideline Finder (www.library.nhs.uk/guidelinesfinder). The Department of Health (www.dh.gov.uk) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (www.mhra.gov.uk) also have information online.

Among other useful free resources are the Cochrane Library (www.thecochranelibrary.com), including the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, a source of reliable and up-to-date information on the effects of interventions in health care and the Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy and others in the Merck Manual series (www.merck.com/pubs).

For help identifying foreign medicines see the list of internet sites maintained by the Society's Technical Information Service (www.pjonline.com/noticeboard/info/pip/foreignmedicines.html).

Pharmacy practice resources Information and practical guidance on the new pharmacy contract can be found on the pharmacy contract section of the Pharmaceutical Services

Negotiating Committee website (www.psn.org.uk), with a section on medicines use review as well as other essential, advanced and enhanced services. Medicines Partnership (www.npc.co.uk/med_partnership) focuses on compliance and concordance and has a section on medication review. For audit templates see the Society's collection (www.rpsgb.org/registrationandsupport/audit/#temp).

Other recent Society practice guidance, law and ethics factsheets and other publications are also available from the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/informationresources/downloadingsocietypublications).

A possible future The library offers many services to members who are unable to visit the Society's headquarters, such as postal loans, article delivery and literature searching. As yet it does not provide access to electronic resources that require a paid subscription more widely than within the walls of the Society.

We are now seeking feedback from members as to the desirability of us providing such resources, along the lines of those described in an article on resources available to accountants (*PJ*, 17 December 2005, p742). The library has the technological capability to make available subscription journals and bibliographic databases online. You would be able to read your favourite pharmacy-related journals at your desktop, and search for articles relevant to your continuing professional development aims without needing to visit the library in person.

Now is your opportunity to tell us whether or not this is the way forward. Please take just five minutes to complete the survey below.

Further information For further information or help, contact the Society's Information Centre (tel 020 7572 2300 [library] or 020 7572 2302 [technical information service]; e-mail infocentre@rpsgb.org). Feedback and suggestions for new resources are always welcome.

6. If you do use the internet, what sorts of resources do you use? (select all that apply)

- Free resources identified through Google
- Free resources identified through other search engines (please specify)
- NHS website/Core content
- Other health organisations' websites
- Third party resources (eg, other library-provided resources or corporate network) (please specify)
- PubMed
- Subject gateway (please specify)
- Pay-per-view journal article services

WHAT THE LIBRARY COULD DO

7. The library could provide you with online access to subscription journal titles covering pharmacy and allied health. You would be able to search for and download the complete text of hundreds of articles relevant to the practice and science of pharmacy. Would this service be of interest to you?

- Yes Don't know
- No, for the following reason

8. The library could provide you with online access to subscription databases that list the contents of pharmacy journals, providing title information and an abstract of the article (but not necessarily the whole text). Would this service be of interest to you?

- Yes Don't know
- No, for the following reason

9. The library could provide you with online access to subscription databases which give medicines-related information. Would this be of interest to you?

- Yes Don't know
- No, for the following reason

10. If you have said yes to any of the above services, would you be willing to contribute to the cost of the service each year?

- Yes, up to £5 per annum
- Yes, up to £15 per annum
- Yes, up to £30 per annum
- No (but I understand that this will limit the number of resources that the library will be able to make available)

All of the above services are already available to visitors to the library. With your support we could make them avail-

able to all members through your PC wherever you have access to the internet.

11. If you would like to provide further comments, please enter them here:

Please note that this questionnaire is related to the library's provision of information through electronic media. For information about all of our services, contact the library by e-mail (library@rpsgb.org) or by telephone (020 7572 2300).

The questionnaire may be photocopied if you do not wish to cut up your *PJ*.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. The development of the service will be guided by your responses.

Don't forget, if you wish to enter the draw for £50 worth of Pharmaceutical Press books, or if you wish to ask us a question, please enter your contact details in the comment box above.

Law and ethics bulletin

Changes to the return and storage of waste medicines in Scotland

Currently, pharmacies are unable to accept waste medicines and sharps returned from care homes offering nursing care (previously classified as nursing homes) throughout the UK unless the pharmacy has a waste management licence.

The Waste Management Licensing Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") which come into force on 1 December 2006, allow pharmacies in Scotland to accept certain waste from care services, subject to conditions (see below).

"Care services" for the purposes of the Regulations have the same meaning as in Section 2 of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and include a care home service which is a service which provides accommodation, together with nursing, personal care or personal support, for persons by reason of their vulnerability or need, but does not include a hospital, a public, independent or grant-aided school, an independent health care service or a service excluded from this definition by regulations.

The changes in the Regulations mean that pharmacies in Scotland can now accept waste medicines and sharps back from care homes that offer nursing care in Scotland, as well as from residential homes, without the need for a waste management licence.

Waste medicines that have been returned to a pharmacy or to the premises of a medical, nursing or veterinary practice or a needle exchange facility, from care services, households or by individuals, can be securely stored under the following conditions:

- The total quantity of returned waste at the pharmacy or premises does not at any time exceed 10m³
- The total amount of waste returned in any 24-hour period does not exceed 5 kilograms or, as the case may be, 5 litres
- Any waste so returned to the pharmacy or premises is stored there for no longer than three months

The waste items (including those which are special waste) that can be returned are: (i) those used in the diagnosis, treatment or prevention of disease in humans; (ii) those used in the research, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of disease involving animals; and (iii) those used in separately collected fractions.

They include: sharps (except those whose collection and disposal is subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection); cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines; other medicines.

Pharmacies should have suitable measures in place to deal with the returned waste and make arrangements with the local

health board for the collection and disposal of such pharmaceutical waste.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency can be contacted for further advice (tel 01786 457 700)

Restrictions on personal control

Pharmacists are reminded that those who registered with the Society by virtue of Section 4A of the Pharmacy Act 1954 (qualified under a European diploma), or under any corresponding provision relating to Northern Ireland, are not able to be the pharmacist in personal control of premises in Great Britain that have been a registered pharmacy for less than three years.

Personal control is a requirement of the Medicines Act 1968, but has not been interpreted in the courts. A number of cases have been considered by the Statutory Committee and, although each case is viewed on its merits, the following advice is offered to pharmacists. All supplies of prescription-only medicines (POMs) and pharmacy (P) medicines from registered retail pharmacy premises must be made under the supervision of a pharmacist. Sales of general sale list (GSL) medicines do not require supervision, but do require a pharmacist to be in personal control of the pharmacy premises. Thus, if a pharmacist is not eligible to be in personal control of a registered pharmacy, no sales of medicines can be made, and this includes general sale list medicines.

In these circumstances the premises could remain open for trading as long as nothing requiring the presence of a pharmacist (ie, POMs, Ps and GSLs) is sold. In addition to the sale of any medicine being unlawful, unless there is a pharmacist in personal control, the display of any restricted titles, such as "Chemist" or "Pharmacy," in connection with the sale of any goods by retail, is unlawful.

Once the relevant provisions of the Health Act 2006 come into force, pharmacists by virtue of Section 4A of the Pharmacy Act 1954 or any corresponding provision relating to Northern Ireland will not be able to be the "responsible pharmacist" in charge of a pharmacy business whose premises have been registered for less than three years.

With the recent increase in the number of new pharmacy premises coming on to the register, pharmacy owners and superintendent pharmacists should ensure that pharmacist staffing levels can be maintained. Pharmacists who own a pharmacy and superintendent pharmacists are advised to check that the pharmacists they intend to employ to work within their pharmacies, whether as contracted employees, as locums or otherwise, are eligible to be the pharmacist in personal control.

The type of qualification held by registered pharmacists can be checked by contacting the Society's registration department (tel 020 7572 2532; e-mail registration@rpsgb.org).

Gift ideas

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's museum offers a range of pharmacy-related Christmas gift ideas and cards. Items for sale include replica drug jars, illustrated books on pharmacy history and packs of greetings cards and postcards. To ensure delivery by Christmas, orders must reach the museum by Wednesday 13 December.

The seven replica drug jars available are hand-finished copies of original objects held in the museum's collections. Each is supplied with an information sheet giving historical details of the original jar and its contents.

The books cover the museum's caricature collection, photographic collection and the history of the Society.

The greeting cards and postcards feature images from the museum's collections, including botanical illustrations, advertisements, photographs and cartoons.

Full details can be found on the museum's pages on the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/informationresources). The site includes images and an order form.

The jars are available by mail order by contacting the Museum Office, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2210; e-mail museum@rpsgb.org). The jars, books and cards can also be bought in person from the library at the Society's London headquarters.

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).

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 20 November, Tuesday 21 November, Wednesday 22 November and Thursday 23 November 2006.

1. The committee adjourned the inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Neil Hutchinson** (registration number 79982) and **Carol Janette Hutchinson** (registration number 79981) to resume at a later date.
2. The committee adjourned the inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Clare Susannah Hatherley** (registration number 1071510) for one year.
3. The committee adjourned the inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Bijal Vithalbhai Patel** (registration number 84459) and **Greenoaks Pharmacy Ltd** (identification number 1003087) to deliver the determination on Tuesday 12 December 2006.
4. The committee adjourned the inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Korush Jalali Farahani** (registration number 1067185) to deliver the determination on Tuesday 12 December 2006.

David Gomez
 Secretary to the Statutory Committee

DEATHS

Iles On 28 November, John George Iles, aged 81, of 49 Aberdeen Park, London N5 2AR. Mr Iles registered in 1957 and retired from the Register in 2004. He was a member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council from 1981 to 1984. Funeral details from W. G. Miller, Funeral Director, 93-95 Essex Road, London N1 2SJ (tel 020 7226 3886).

DIARY

Headquarters meetings

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

Monday 4 December
 Officers' meeting. 10am.
 Infringements Committee. 1pm.

Tuesday 5 December
 Council meeting. 3.30pm.
 Council guest night. 6.30pm.

Wednesday 6 December
 Council meeting. 9am.

Thursday 7 December
 Joint Formulary 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)

Tuesday 5 December
Barnet "First aid for pharmacists" by Brian Smith (first aid trainer and assessor, St John Ambulance). Education and Information Centre, Barnet Hospital. Hot meal 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

Brighton "Aids and HIV" by Heather Leake (principal pharmacist, HIV/sexual health, Brighton and Sussex University Hospital). Audrey Emerton Education Centre, Eastern Road, Brighton. Supper available 7pm (advise secretary), meeting 8pm.

Dudley and Stourbridge "Coeliac disease" by Rachael Wright (dietitian). Dudley Clinical Education Centre, First Floor, Block C, Russells Hall Hospital. Seasonal refreshments and gluten free tasting. 8pm.

Northern Scottish "Peer review of pharmacist prescribing" by Colin Costello (principal clinical pharmacist, NHS Highland). Marriott Hotel, Culcabock Road, Inverness. 7.30pm.

Oxfordshire "Sexual health" by a Harrison Unit specialist, (Radcliffe Infirmary). George Pickering Postgraduate Centre, Level 3, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington. Light refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Stirling and Central Scottish "Safety and security in the pharmacy" with presentations and workshops on dealing with crime, violence and aggression in the pharmacy workplace". Conference Centre, Stirling Royal Infirmary. Buffet 6.30pm, meeting 7pm.

Teesside "Challenging pain" by Keith Milligan (pain management

consultant, James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough). Swallow Hotel, Stockton on Tees. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 6 December
West Cumberland Quiz night (quizmaster Garyth Orton). Hundith Hill Hotel, near Cockermouth. 7.30pm followed by bar supper.

Thursday 7 December
Bolton "The National Patient Safety Agency and the relationship with pharmacy" by Linda Matthew (patient safety manager, Greater Manchester, NPSA). Education Centre, Royal Bolton Hospital. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Colchester "Wound interactive products: local guidelines" by Marion Lazenby (lead nurse, wound management team, North East Essex Primary Care Trust). Postgraduate Centre, Colchester General Hospital. 7.30 for 8pm.

Harrogate "Complementary and alternative therapies" by Steven Kayne (pharmacist, Glasgow). Pharmacy Department, Fawcett Wing, Harrogate District Hospital. Light buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Lanarkshire "The media and the NHS" by David Steele (communications manager, NHS

Lanarkshire). Hilton Strathclyde Hotel, Bellshill. 8pm.

Manchester, Salford and Trafford "Falls service" by Helen Hosker (primary care physician, elderly service development, Central Manchester Primary Care Trust). Platt Lane Complex, Yew Tree Road, Fallowfield. Light refreshments 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Monday 11 December
Derby "Hypertension" by Peter Burrill (specialist pharmacist, pharmaceutical public health). Conference Room, Landau Forte College, Fox Street, Derby. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Nottingham "Medicines in the elderly" by Opinder Sahota (Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham). Foyer, School of Pharmacy (East Drive), University of Nottingham. Finger buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 13 December
Bristol "Multiple sclerosis: latest developments and treatments, including the recent cannabinoids trial" by Neil Scolding (department of neurology, Frenchay Hospital). BAWA, Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol. 7.30 for 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 Information pharmacists, 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

Pharmaceutics information

Information, advice and problem-solving in pharmaceutics 020 7572 2302; fax 020 7572 2499; e-mail 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; rps@turpin-distribution.com; website www.pharmpress.com