

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



Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain

Inspectors to have more power?

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Infringements Committee wants the Society's inspectors to have power to resolve many problems at the local level rather than report them to the Society centrally.

At the Society's **December Council meeting**, during debate on the decriminalisation of dispensing errors (*PJ*, 16 December, p753), Infringements Committee chairman Phillida Entwistle said that the committee had talked during a recent policy day about empowering the inspectorate. The committee believed that the inspectorate was one of the Society's great assets and wanted to make better use of it.

Dr Entwistle said that many cases low down on the committee's agenda could be dealt with by the inspectorate locally, subject to the Council's support and the overcoming of any legal barriers that might be raised. That

would result in significantly fewer cases being referred to the committee, resulting in less stress for the pharmacists involved and significant savings on the Society's resources, which could then be redirected to more important cases.

Dr Entwistle said that the committee wished to take the issue further early in 2007 and put proposals before the Council.

Michael Schofield agreed that the inspectorate was one of Society's great assets but suggested that it was not realistic to ask the inspectors to add more of a professional adviser role to their obligations as inspectors when each of them covered something like 500 pharmacies. There might be a need, with Government support, to increase the registration fee and invest in more inspectors. He flagged that up in recognition of the importance of what the inspectors already did.

This week

- **Powers of Society's inspectors**
The Society's Infringements Committee has proposed that the inspectors should have power to resolve many problems at the local level (p773).
- **PPI strategy approved for Society**
A strategy for public and patient involvement in the Society has been approved by the Council (p773).
- **New structure for education work**
The Council has approved new structures and processes to manage the Society's education work (p774).

December Council meeting

Reports on this and the next page conclude our coverage of the Society's December Council meeting. See also *PJ*, 16 December, pp749–753.

Process agreed for consultations on draft guidance documents

The Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has approved a process for consulting on draft professional standards and guidance documents to supplement the proposed revised Code of Ethics.

At the **December Council meeting**, the Council agreed the following:

- Consultations should be undertaken for six to eight weeks
- Consultation should be primarily by electronic means, with paper copies of the consultation available on request
- Consultations should be promoted widely to the profession and other key stakeholders
- Consultations should ask a small number

of straightforward questions relevant to the document being consulted on

- Draft standards or guidance documents should be approved for consultation by the Law and Ethics Committee
- The outcomes of the consultation should be reported to the Law and Ethics Committee, together with an amended document for the committee's approval
- Feedback on how the responses have been used should be made public
- The Council should approve the final draft of the document before publication

The development of the consultation process follows the Council's decision to

move towards a new Code of Ethics based on seven basic principles of ethical practice, which will be supplemented by more detailed standards and guidance drawn up for specific areas of practice or for particular professional responsibilities.

The Council agreed that the consultation process as proposed would enable the profession and other key stakeholders to have input into the standards that the profession would be judged against. It would also help to identify any issues before they became problems.

The process also endeavoured to ensure that guidance documents could be published in a timely manner, while still allowing input from the profession and the public.

Council approves PPI strategy for Society

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is to appoint a staff member to take forward a three-year strategy for public and patient involvement (PPI) in the Society's work.

The appointment was approved at the **December Council meeting** after the Council had received a report on the results of the Society's consultation on developing a PPI strategy (*PJ*, 1 July, p23).

The Council also agreed to the establishment of a public liaison group. This would reflect the direction taken by other health

professional bodies and was considered more resource-efficient and more effective than the original proposal of a steering group plus a public involvement network.

Introducing a report on the consultation, Council member Ray Jobling said that it had attracted an overwhelmingly favourable response from a wide range of those consulted, although there had been some concerns that the strategy might deflect attention from the issue of how the Council communicates with the profession.

Name change accepted for BPC practice research panel

A name change for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's practice research adjudicating panel has been accepted by the Society's Council.

At the **December Council meeting** it was agreed that the panel should be known as the British Pharmaceutical Conference Practice Research Panel. The name change is intended to better reflect its responsibilities, which extend well beyond its original purpose of reviewing practice research abstracts submitted for presentation at the BPC.

Council approves new structures for Society's education work

The Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has agreed a set of structures and processes to manage the Society's education work once the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technician Order under Section 60 of the Health Act 1999 (see p759) is in force.

At the **December Council meeting**, the Council approved the functions and composition of an education advisory group and a statutory Education Committee, and the methods for appointing their members.

The advisory group will have the same function as the current Education Committee, acting as the initial education policy generation body for the Society and advising the Council on education matters. It will generate papers for consideration by the Council, which will retain its role as the policy decision

making body. The group will also be the forum for general discussion to keep the Society abreast of relevant education and training issues, and it will retain oversight of pharmacy education and training in its broadest sense.

Its membership will include experts in various aspects of education and training for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, Council members with appropriate backgrounds and, ideally, non-pharmacy education and training experts and lay representation. As with the current Education Committee, members will be appointed by the Appointments Panel under its delegated authority from Council.

The function of the new statutory Education Committee will be to hear appeals against decisions relating to examinations, the adjudication of overseas applicants, the ac-

creditation or approval of courses of education and training for pharmacists or pharmacy technicians, the accreditation of training courses for preregistration tutors, the approval of preregistration tutors, and the approval of preregistration training premises.

The structure of the committee will be similar to that for other statutory committees, as will the process for appointing members. The committee will consist of a chairman and two deputy chairmen (all legally qualified), six pharmacists, three pharmacy technicians and six lay members. Panels will be convened from the committee to hear specific cases. Cases will be prepared initially within the Society's Education and Registration Directorate and then passed to the committee's independent secretariat.

Society to develop strategy on long-term conditions and self-care

A strategy on long-term conditions (LTCs) in community pharmacy is to be developed for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. That was agreed by the Council after it considered a paper at the **December Council meeting**.

The paper reported on research offering evidence that community pharmacy could have an impact in the care of people with asthma, diabetes and coronary heart disease but were rarely involved in such care. Reasons for the lack of involvement had been explored through interviews with stakeholders. It had been found, among other things, that GPs

were not aware of pharmacists' potential, were doubtful about their abilities and saw progress for pharmacy as a risk. Other barriers to progress included pharmacists' lack of access to information and their failure to sell the benefits of community pharmacy to patients.

The report recommended actively disseminating the findings of the LTCs project, involving pharmacy in local level discussions on commissioning, creating an accessible evidence base to demonstrate community pharmacy's contribution (with links to key NHS targets), using marketing and publicity to raise aware-

ness of what pharmacists can do (based on evidence), identifying service brokers, mentors and facilitators to link up providers and commissioners, "skilling up" and providing tools for local community pharmacy champions, and developing a model service specification for one LTC, including a patient care pathway.

The Council noted the research findings and endorsed the report's recommendations. It agreed to the development of an LTCs and self-care strategy and the setting-up of a task force on LTCs and pharmacy. It also agreed to appoint a Council sponsor for the work.

Law and ethics bulletin

Approved wording on instalment prescriptions to cover pharmacy closures

Pharmacists are reminded of the legal requirement that each supply against an instalment prescription must be dispensed on the due date specified on the prescription.

However, the Home Office has confirmed that approved wording can be used by those prescribing Controlled Drugs by way of instalment in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, as amended, which will enable those supplying Controlled Drugs to issue instalments on the day immediately prior to closure should the pharmacy be closed on days when instalments are due. This text is in addition to the usual Controlled Drug prescription requirements. If a prescription does not contain this

wording, or other similar wording approved by the Home Office, the Regulations only permit the supply to be in accordance with the prescriber's instalment direction.

The wording approved by the Home Office is: "Instalments due on days when the pharmacy is closed should be dispensed on the day immediately prior to closure."

The above wording can be used where a supply is requested for a day on which the pharmacy is closed. For example, if the prescription stated "140ml to be dispensed on Mondays", and the Monday in question was a bank holiday on which the pharmacy was shut (and the pharmacy was also shut on Sundays), the instalment could be supplied on the day before closure. Therefore, the weekly instalments could be supplied on the Saturday, immediately before the bank holiday. In the case of a prescription for a daily

pickup and the pharmacy was closed on the Sunday and Monday, the prescription would have to contain a direction that instalments due on the days when the pharmacy is closed should be dispensed on the day immediately before closure.

Where a prescription contains wording that is different to the sentence reproduced above, the Home Office must be contacted to seek approval for the wording in question. Approval must be confirmed before supply is made against such instruction.

Pharmacists are also reminded that they have a professional responsibility to ensure that patients are provided with sufficient information and advice to enable the safe and effective use of their medicine. Therefore, where a bottle of medicine contains more than one dose, the pharmacist should ensure that the patient is able to correctly measure out their required doses themselves.

The case of the hungry parrot, and other retention fee collection stories

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's annual retention fee collection exercise can be stressful for some pharmacists. It can also be traumatic for the Society staff charged with collecting the fees. **Richard Anderson**, of the Society's registration team, explains

My first experience of the retention fee process was in 2003 when everything that could go wrong did go wrong and everything that did not seem to go wrong probably went wrong too, except that we were in too much of a panic to realise. I like to think we have improved things since then.

As the fee collection process approaches I always feel a sense of trepidation — not quite the same trepidation as eating one of my mother's Yorkshire puddings, but it is still a time of worry.

Our first concern is the retention fee form. What have we spelt wrong on it this year? Is it "practice" or "practise"? Is it "you", "your" or "you're"? It does not take an eagle-eyed pharmacist long to spot our mistakes and berate us for our grammatical incompetence.

Then the telephone calls start. Thousands of them. Questions, problems, grievances, groans. Happy pharmacists, grumpy pharmacists, confused pharmacists. Not to mention Mr Jenkins wanting to know when his new fridge will be delivered.

Do not get me wrong. We are always happy to help members who have problems with the retention fee process. But, with 47,000 members and only five registration staff, the lines can obviously get very busy, and I would recommend that before picking up the telephone members first check the retention fee information on the "payment of fees page" in the registration section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/registrationandsupport).

Despite all the information published on the website and in *The Journal*, we still receive every question imaginable. "How do I pay?" "Where do I pay?" "What do I pay?" "Is it really that much?" "Will I get a receipt?" And then there are the unpredictable telephone calls.

My favourite strange call from 2003 was: "My parrot has eaten my retention fee form. Can I have a new one please?"

In 2004, we had: "I didn't know I had to pay my fees. Next year could you put an advert on during Coronation Street?" And in 2006: "What is an upper case letter?"

The team works hard throughout the year to



"My parrot has eaten my retention fee form"

ensure that the retention fee process is as smooth as possible for members. In recent years many members have benefited from the introduction of online payment and instant receipts. This year, by registering to use the "myRPSGB" section of the Society's website, members can gain access to permanent records of their payments — not only for 2007 but also from previous years.

In a perverse way I do enjoy the retention fee process. It is incredibly hard work, sometimes funny, sometimes tearful, but there is a sense of great achievement when all the queries have been answered and finally the last of the stragglers have paid their fees.



Members of the Society's registration team: left to right, James Edmonds, Alison Bartlett, Richard Anderson and head of registration Andrew Gardner (other team members are Warren Chambers and Stephen Craddock)

Society produces newsletter for members in England

The first issue of an electronic newsletter for pharmacists in England is now available via the "Download Society publications" page of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/informationresources).

The Society says that *Pharmacy Now* "will bring news and views from the Society in an easy-to-read format designed to appeal to busy pharmacists and will complement the existing Society publications produced for pharmacy audiences in Scotland and Wales."

Holiday closing

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 21 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.

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 11 December, Tuesday 12 December and Wednesday 13 December 2006.

1. The committee adjourned the inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Lyndon Lien Sun Wou** (registration number 67470) to deliver the determination at a later date.
2. The committee adjourned the inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Ramanlal Ambaram Mistry** (registration number 74751) and **Mistry Pharmacy Ltd** (identification number 1084440) to deliver the determination at a later date.
3. Following 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), the committee directed the removal of Mr Patel's name from the Register and further directed that no further action should be taken against Greenoaks Pharmacy Ltd. In relation to Mr Patel the committee found proved the allegation that: the submission of wrong claims to the Prescribing Pricing Authority for payment resulting in overpayment to the company; the operation of a system of work involving the alteration of endorsements on prescriptions by a superintendent pharmacist who was not the dispensing pharmacist, at a time and place remote from the dispensing of medication, and without consultation with the dispensing pharmacist; the reliance upon the statement of a prescriber's member of staff rather than the prescriber himself in relation to the endorsement of prescriptions for the contraceptive pill; a lack of

professional knowledge in relation to prescribing for and dispensing of the contraceptive pill; the failure to keep his knowledge up to date in relation to endorsements and the contraceptive pill; the failure to keep his knowledge up to date in relation to endorsements and the Drug Tariff; the incorrect instruction as superintendent pharmacist to a dispensing pharmacist employed by the company in respect of dispensing against prescriptions for the contraceptive pill; and, the erroneous completion and submission of untrue declarations contained in applications for inclusion on a primary care trust's list, amounted to misconduct. Under Section 11 of the Pharmacy Act 1954, the direction to remove Mr Patel's name from the Register is not to take effect until the expiration of a period of three months from the date on which notice of removal was given or in a case where an appeal has been brought against the direction, until the appeal is determined or withdrawn.

4. Following the inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Korush Jalali Farahani** (registration number 1067185), the committee directed the removal of Mr Jalali Farahani's name from the Register. The committee found proved the allegation 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 that had not been prescribed for him; and the consumption of codeine phosphate tablets and Kapake capsules while working as a locum pharmacist, amounted to misconduct. The committee also found proved a conviction for the theft of 40 codeine phosphate tablets 30mg and 14 zolpidem tartrate tablets 10mg of a value unknown belonging to Superdrug Plc, contrary to Sections 1(1) and 7 of the Theft Act 1968. Under Section 11 of the Pharmacy Act 1954, the direction to remove Mr Jalali Farahani's name from the Register is not to take effect until the expiration of a period of three months from the date on which notice of removal was given or in a case where an appeal has been brought against the direction, until the appeal is determined or withdrawn.
5. The Committee adjourned the inquiry into a complaint by the

Council of the Society against **Cyril Clement Daniel Siou** (registration number 85068) to deliver the determination at a later date.

David Gomez
Secretary to the Statutory Committee

DEATHS

Burrows On 27 November, Eric William Savours Burrows, MRPharmS, aged 94, of 3 Charlotte Close, off Bure Haven Drive, Mudeford, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 4DF. Mr Burrows registered in 1935.

Chester Suddenly, on 15 December, Peter Michael ("Mick") Chester, MRPharmS, aged 68, of Oakleigh, Millhouse Lane, Goole DN14 5JX. Mr Chester registered in 1960. After starting his career with Boots The Chemists, he worked as a representative for Parke-Davis and Cupal in the 1970s and '80s before returning to community pharmacy as proprietor of Coggraves Chemist in Goole. He leaves a widow Barbara and sons Dean and Chris, both pharmacists.

Jones On 19 June, Pamela Mary Jones, age 81, of 40 Everest Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 9LG. Mrs Jones registered in 1950.

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)

Monday 8 January

Nottingham "Advances in breast cancer treatment" by John Robertson (Nottingham City Hospital). Foyer, School of Pharmacy (East Drive), University of Nottingham. 7.30 for 8pm.

Tuesday 9 January

Northern Scottish "Introduction to British sign language" by Bert Smale (sign language interpreter and lip-reading tutor and Grampian TV sign language presenter). Marriott Hotel, Inverness. 7.30pm.
Oxfordshire "Colostomy care" by Angie Perrin (colostomy care nurse). George Pickering Postgraduate Centre, Level 3, John Radcliffe Hospital. 7.30 for 8pm.

Wednesday 10 January

West Cumberland Annual general meeting. Hundith Hill Hotel, near Cocker mouth. 7.30pm followed by bar supper.

Friday 12 January

Lanarkshire Quiz. Hilton Strathclyde Hotel, Bellshill. 7 for 7.30pm.



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 2073 0310; fax 029 2073 0311; 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 technifo@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