

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



Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain

Respondents support Society's proposals for new Code of Ethics

Respondents to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's final consultation on a revised Code of Ethics for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians have shown strong support for the proposals, the Society has announced.

The Society is also pleased with the level of the response. It says that the consultation — which began three months ago (*PJ*, 11 November 2006, centre pull-out) and ended on 26 January — attracted a total of 144 responses from pharmacists, technicians, pharmacy bodies and other professional and patient organisations.

Among other things, 83 per cent of respondents agreed that the proposed new code was easy to understand. Individual comments about specific aspects of the code were of great value and are being used to make further changes to the revised code before it is finalised.

The consultation also asked respondents for their views on how to support the profession in implementing the new Code of Ethics. Respondents provided a range of ideas, some of which will be used by the Society when launching the revised code later this year.

The consultation, which sought views on the detailed content and wording of the revised code, followed two previous

consultations, on the benefits and limitations of the current codes (October 2005) and on the proposed structure of a revised code (June 2006).

The Society says it has been pleased with the response to all three consultations and hopes that a similar level of response will be achieved with the five current consultations on the detailed standards and guidance documents to support the revised code (*PJ*, 20 January, p82). These documents cover:

- Patient consent
- Patient confidentiality
- Sale and supply of medicines
- Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in positions of authority
- Pharmacist prescribers.

The Society's head of professional ethics, Lynsey Balmer, says: "These consultations give the profession and the public the opportunity to have early input into these standards and guidance documents, and therefore a real input into the shaping of the performance measures that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians will work towards in the future.

"We urge pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to respond to these consultations to help ensure that the documents are relevant to current and future practice. Some of the documents may not be relevant to everyone, but pharmacists and technicians are being encouraged to respond to those documents that relate to their everyday practice."

How to take part in these consultations is explained in the Panel.

Two further standards documents are also being drafted. One is concerned with internet pharmacy and the other deals with advertising. Pharmacists will be informed via *The Journal* when these consultations begin,

This week

- **Revised Code of Ethics**
Respondents to a consultation on a draft new Code of Ethics have strongly supported the proposals (p171).
- **Welsh offices and board**
New offices for the Society in Wales have been officially opened and the Welsh Pharmacy Board has held its first meeting (p171).
- **Analysis of Register**
The Society has published an analysis of the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists in 2006 (p172).

Minister opens new Welsh office of Society

Brian Gibbons, Health and Social Services Minister for the Welsh Assembly Government, opened the new premises of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in Cardiff this week.

Earlier in the day the new office hosted the first Welsh Pharmacy Board meeting, at which Peter Jones was elected chairman and Marc Donovan vice-chairman.

Dr Gibbons said that the new office would allow the Society to meet the challenge of engaging more widely with the profession in Wales and provide a location for pharmacists to meet to discuss issues affecting the whole of Wales. "Hopefully it will be the start of something new, building on what we have achieved today," he added.



Brian Gibbons (right) with Peter Jones after unveiling a commemorative plaque

How to take part in the consultations on professional guidance

The five documents and five questionnaire forms can be accessed on the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org) by clicking on "Consultations" on the right-hand side of the home page.

The questionnaires can either be filled in and submitted online or downloaded and returned by e-mail.

To assist respondents in preparing their responses, the draft revised code can also be accessed on the website, as can the existing Code of Ethics and Standards and the Code of Ethics for Pharmacy Technicians. Both existing codes are also published in the 30th edition of 'Medicines, ethics and practice: a guide for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians' (July 2006).

Those without internet access can obtain copies of any or all of consultation documents and questionnaires by contacting Priya Sejpal, Professional Ethics Pharmacist, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2481; e-mail priya.sejpal@rpsgb.org).

Comments on the drafts must be submitted by 9 March.

Ethnic minorities attracted to careers in pharmacy

An analysis of the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists suggests that careers in pharmacy are popular with people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds.

The analysis, based on the Register in August 2006, indicates that 27 per cent of pharmacists identified themselves as being from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, compared with 9 per cent for the general population, as estimated in the 2001 Population and Housing Census. The breakdown was white 73 per cent, Asian 18 per cent, Chinese 4 per cent, black 3 per cent, mixed 1 per cent and other 1 per cent.

Among new entrants to the Register over the previous year, the proportion from black and ethnic minority backgrounds was over 40 per cent [roughly twice the proportion from such backgrounds who go on to higher education generally, as shown by Universities and Colleges Admissions Service figures].

The report, entitled "Your Register report: the Society's Registers in 2006", has been produced to assist workforce planners, researchers, the Government, devolved administrations and employers. It can be accessed from the registration page in the "registration and support" section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/registrationandsupport).

Other details from the breakdown include the following:

Totals In August 2006, 47,068 pharmacists were registered with the Society, of whom 7,534 (16 per cent) were on the non-practising Register. Although higher than the 2005 figure, the total number is still less than in

2004, after which a change in the retention fee structure led to a drop in registrations.

New entrants There were 2,603 new entrants to the Register between August 2005 and August 2006. Most (79 per cent) were aged under 30 years. Two-thirds (67 per cent) were female. Registrants from overseas accounted for 446 new entrants, with Poland (179) being the most represented country.

Exits from Register The number of names removed from the Register between August 2006 and August 2006 was 1,932, of whom 57 per cent were male and 48 per cent were aged 65 or over.

Non-practising pharmacists The number of non-practising pharmacists on the register was 7,534 (16 per cent of the total), of whom 49 per cent were female.

Age The analysis shows that more than two-thirds of the pharmacists were aged under 50 years (71 per cent). The number of pharmacists aged 65 or over was 10 per cent, a decrease from 13 per cent in 2002.

Sex More than half of all pharmacists (56 per cent) were female, with the proportion highest in the younger age groups. The figure has risen from 52 per cent in 2002. Among non-practising pharmacists women accounted for 49 per cent.

Location The survey found that more than three-quarters (76 per cent) of pharmacists

have a registered address in England, with 9 per cent in Scotland, 5 per cent in Wales and 10 per cent overseas. These figures have been fairly static since 2002, with a slight decrease in the proportion of overseas addresses (from 11 per cent) and a slight increase in the proportion of addresses in England (from 75 per cent).

Future pharmacists The survey found that 1,821 preregistration trainees were undertaking placements in June 2006; 1,332 candidates passed the Society's summer 2006 registration examination. About 9,465 students were studying for an MPharm degree, of whom 2,761 were new first-year students.

Pharmacy technicians On 31 July 2006 there were 3,633 persons on the voluntary register of pharmacy technicians. Of these, 94 per cent were female and 99 per cent were registered as practising. Eighty-six per cent had registered addresses in England, 7 per cent in Scotland, 6 per cent in Wales and 1 per cent overseas.

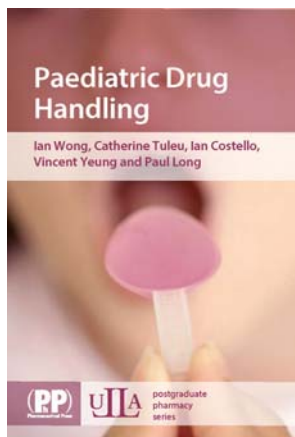
Pharmacy premises On 31 July 2006, 12,423 pharmacies were registered with the Society, of which 12,128 were community pharmacies and 295 were hospital pharmacies. Of the total, 84 per cent were in England, 10 per cent in Scotland and 6 per cent in Wales. Ownership data showed that 48 per cent were owned by multiple pharmacy companies, 4 per cent by medium chains, 7 per cent by small chains and 41 per cent by independent proprietors.

New textbook on paediatric pharmacy for pharmaceutical scientists

A new textbook on the handling of paediatric medicines is now available from the Pharmaceutical Press (Royal Pharmaceutical Society Publishing's imprint). 'Paediatric drug handling' is written for new pharmaceutical scientists and is designed to provide a background in paediatric pharmacy and a comprehensive introduction to children's medication.

After a worldwide survey of regulatory processes for paediatric medicines, the book goes on to examine the formulation of established, new and orphan drugs for paediatric use. It then discusses the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs and formulations in children of different ages and considers the role of pharmacogenomics in paediatric drug handling. It then explores clinical trials involving children, including the ethics of such trials and the design of trials concerned with rare diseases, where patient numbers will be limited. Finally, the book addresses the problem of medication errors in paediatric practice.

The book has been written by academic staff of the Centre for Paediatric Pharmacy Research at the School of Pharmacy, University of London — Ian Wong (professor of paediatric research and director of the centre), Catherine Tuleu (lecturer in pharmaceuticals and deputy director of the centre), Ian Costello (now deputy chief pharmacist, St George's Hospital, London), Vincent Yeung (now good clinical practice



inspector, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) and Paul Long (senior lecturer in molecular microbiology).

The book is the second title in a series of introductory texts for postgraduate students in pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences produced by the ULLA Consortium (the European University Consortium for Advanced Pharmaceutical Education and Research), which is a collaborative initiative of a number of pharmacy departments from leading universities in the UK, Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark, France and Italy.

The titles in the series are aimed at PhD students but are also expected to appeal to postgraduate students undertaking master's or diploma courses, to undergraduates for specific courses and to practising pharmaceutical scientists.

The first title in the series was 'Pharmaceutical toxicology' (*PJ*, 19 August, 2006, p236). Other early titles will include 'Molecular biopharmaceutics', 'Proteomics and metabolomics in pharmaceutical science' and 'Biomedical and pharmaceutical polymers'.

The 144-page paperback book costs £24.95. 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).

Law and ethics bulletin

Metropolitan Police investigations and release of patient confidential data

The Metropolitan Police is currently investigating a serious major crime that may have implications nationally. It is possible that individual pharmacists in a number of areas across the country may be approached by the Metropolitan Police in respect of patient confidential information they hold regarding the supply of particular prescription items. Before any patient confidential information is supplied, the investigating officers should serve on the individual pharmacist the relevant authority in the form of a request under Section 29(2) of the Data Protection Act 1998, which should be signed by an officer of inspector rank or above.

Investigating officers from the Metropolitan Police have been in contact with senior members of staff from the Society and can confirm that the information that may be requested is justified and its release is in accordance with Society guidelines.

To be in accordance with Society guidelines any disclosure of patient confidential information must comply with both the legislation and the pharmacists' Code of Ethics, which states the circumstances in which a pharmacist may disclose information without a patient's consent. Paragraph (b)(v) below would apply in the circumstances described above.

C. Confidentiality

The public expects pharmacists and their staff to respect and protect confidentiality. This duty extends to any information relating to an individual which pharmacists or their staff acquire in the course of their professional activities. Confidential information includes personal details and medication, both prescribed and non prescribed.

Pharmacists must ensure that:

- (a) the confidentiality of information acquired in the course of their professional activities is respected and protected, and is disclosed only with the consent of the individual other than in the circumstances defined below in (b).
- (b) information is disclosed without the patient's consent only in the following circumstances:
 - (i) where the patient's parent, guardian or carer has consented

- to the disclosure and the patient's apparent age or health makes them incapable of consent;
- (ii) pharmacists should be aware that information about services provided to adolescents should not normally be disclosed to their parents;
- (iii) where disclosure of the information is to a person or body empowered by statute to require such a disclosure;
- (iv) where disclosure is directed by a coroner, judge or other presiding officer of a court, Crown Prosecution Office in England and Wales and procurator-fiscal in Scotland;
- (v) to a police officer or NHS Fraud Investigation Officer who provides in writing confirmation that disclosure is necessary to assist in the prevention, detection or prosecution of serious crime;
- (vi) where necessary to prevent serious injury or damage to the health of the patient, a third party or to public health; . . .

The decision to disclose patient confidential details remains with the pharmacist who consents to the release of the data and patient confidential information may only be disclosed without the patients' consent in one of the above circumstances. A copy of any written request for disclosure provided by the police under Section 29(2) of the Data Protection Act 1998 should be retained in the pharmacy in the event of any query.

If you are approached by the Metropolitan Police during the course of this investigation and have any concerns about disclosure of patient confidential information, please contact the Society's legal and ethical advisory service on 020 7572 2308 for further guidance.

Medication error logs

The maintenance of medication error logs is seen as good practice in pharmacy and, in line with clinical governance arrangements, should be included in pharmacy standard operating procedures.

Medication error logs are intended to be used as a risk management tool and information from the logs should be regularly reviewed, analysed and discussed within the pharmacy in order to identify risk areas associated with the dispensing and checking process.

Appropriate action to review systems and procedures with a view to minimisation of future risk should be taken, where necessary.

Pharmacy owners and individuals may be apprehensive that information contained in medication error logs could be used as a basis for disciplinary action by the Society. However, the existence and regular audit and review of such logs is considered to be indicative of good practice and robust risk management. Their use is therefore encouraged.

During routine pharmacy inspections, Society inspectors may ask to see evidence that a system is in place to deal with dispensing errors, including the maintenance and use of medication error logs. However, inspectors will not ask to look at any of the actual records or any of the specific information held within those logs. Further information on the inspection of error logs during routine visits is contained in a monitoring and inspection checklist for inspectors, which is available from the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/inspvisitschecklist.pdf).

If the Society receives a complaint about a dispensing error, the inspector may, as part of the investigation, ask to see the specific error log which relates to the complaint under investigation. Evidence of the maintenance of an error log by the pharmacy (where the pharmacy has been made aware of the error) can be seen as evidence of good practice. It may be particularly helpful if the error log describes any review of systems carried out at the pharmacy in light of the incident.

On rare occasions where serious concerns have been raised about a particular pharmacy or about the fitness to practise of an individual, it may be necessary for error logs to be examined. This action would only be considered in extreme circumstances, where there was genuine cause for concern about public safety.

For further information on the handling of dispensing errors please refer to the document "Dealing with dispensing errors", available from the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/restooldealdisperr.pdf).

Those without access to the internet can obtain copies of the above-mentioned documents by contacting Seema Khan, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2236; e-mail seema.khan@rpsgb.org).

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).

Council election 2007

Six unreserved places for elected pharmacists and one place for an elected pharmacy technician will become vacant on the Society's Council in May 2007.

Nominations for election to these vacancies should be received (by post, hand delivery or fax — not e-mail) by the Head of Corporate Secretariat, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN, by noon on Friday 2 March 2007.

Eligibility A prospective candidate shall be eligible for election only if his or her name appears within Part 1 (practising) of the relevant Society Register and he or she is normally resident in Great Britain, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands.

A prospective candidate shall not be eligible if he or she has failed, by noon on Friday 2 March 2007, to pay any retention fee then due and payable by him or her to the Society.

Nominations Nominations for the pharmacist places in this election must be signed by 10 pharmacist nominators. Nominations for the pharmacy technician place must be signed by five pharmacy technician nominators.

Nominees who are accepting nomination to the Council must

enclose with the nomination form the declaration and undertaking for candidates for election to the Council, duly signed, particulars of the extent and type of work undertaken by the candidate within and for the profession of pharmacy, a signed statement confirming that no Society retention fee or penalty due from the candidate remains unpaid, a declaration of relevant interests, and a declaration of any relevant adverse decisions, as shown in the statement of policy on election procedures.

The deadline for receipt of all the supporting material, including the candidate's details of professional qualifications, photograph and election statement, should he or she choose to provide them, is noon on Friday 2 March 2007.

All nominations must be made on an official nomination form. To obtain a nomination form and guidance papers, please contact the Head of Corporate Secretariat (tel 020 7572 2204; e-mail averil.ridgway@rpsgb.org). The nomination forms and the guidance papers are also available from the Council election page in the "Society functions" section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/societyfunctions).

A nomination may be withdrawn by notice in writing (not by e-mail) signed by the prospective candidate and delivered to the Head of Corporate Secretariat at the above address no later than noon on Friday 2 March 2007.

Timetable The electoral roll will be closed at 5pm on 15 March 2007. Only those pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who are registered with the Society at this time shall be entitled to vote in this election.

Joint Pharmaceutical Analysis Group

Symposium: The role of materials characterisation in pharmaceutical quality by design and manufacture

- **Date and time:** 22 February, 9.30am to 5pm.
- **Venue:** Maplethorpe Theatre, School of Pharmacy, University of London
- **Content:** Review of the latest developments in material characterisation techniques and their applications in exploring the pharmaceutical "design space" as part of "quality by design".
- **Aim:** To provide an update for scientists and managers involved in product and process development at all stages of a drug's lifecycle, for colleagues in the allied fields of manufacturing and regulatory affairs and for those functioning, or training, as "qualified persons"
- **Fees:** The fee, which includes registration, documentation, morning coffee and lunch, is £95 for JPAG members or other members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society or Royal Society of Chemistry (joint sponsors of JPAG), £25 for bona fide retired, student or unemployed members of either society and £150 for others.
- **Further information:** Julie Churchill, Third Floor, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London, SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2261; fax 020 7572 2506; e-mail science@rpsgb.org).

It is expected that voting papers will be posted to the electorate on Thursday 5 April 2007. Completed voting forms must be returned by post to the Electoral Reform Ballot Services Ltd, PO Box 6352, London N1 1YR, to arrive not later than noon on Friday 11 May 2007.

The newly elected Council members will take office at 12.01am on 19 May 2007.

Ann Lewis
Secretary and Registrar

Industrial Pharmacists Group Committee election 2007

Nominations for election as members of the Industrial Pharmacists Group Committee should be received by the secretary of the group on or before 16 March 2007. Each

nomination in the election must be signed by at least five members of the Industrial Pharmacists Group.

As the reforms of the Society stemming from the new Royal Charter and the proposed revisions of the legislative framework are agreed and implemented, the committee, advisory and interest group structures supporting the Council will also be reviewed. This may, depending on the timing and the outcomes of the review, impact on the terms of office that members elected to the Industrial Pharmacists Group Committee in this election are asked to serve. However, the period of service should not be longer than the three years stated in the group's constitution and might possibly be shorter.

Nominees who are accepting nomination to the Industrial Pharmacists Group Committee are asked to enclose with the nomination form their biographical details and a statement of policy amounting to not more than 200 words.

Nomination forms are available from Sadia Khan, Industrial Pharmacists Group Secretary, at the Society's headquarters. The election will be conducted using the single transferable vote system. Voting papers will be sent to all members of the Industrial Pharmacists' Group in mid-April. The closing date for the receipt of voting papers will be noon on 12 May 2007.

Sadia Khan
Secretary, Industrial Pharmacists Group

Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Residential course: Pharmacokinetic–pharmacodynamic data analysis

- **Dates:** Sunday 20 May (5pm) to Thursday 24 May
- **Venue:** Madingley Hall, Cambridge
- **Content:** An advanced workshop providing an interface between the computer analysis of pharmacokinetic (PK) and pharmacodynamic (PD) data and physiological concepts. Based on the background and concepts provided by the course lecturers, delegates will apply this information to the WinNonlin modelling package. The course includes access to the computer package to undertake hands-on exercises on real-life case studies and availability of course tutors to help in problem solving.
- **Delegates:** Advanced level research scientists in the pharmaceutical industry, academia, regulatory agencies and contract research firms with at least three years' experience in PK/PD analyses and modelling; participants who have attended the earlier introductory workshop;

researchers with a working knowledge of WinNonlin who wish learn about its advanced features

- **Course team:** Johann Gabrielsson (senior principal scientist, AstraZeneca R&D Mölndal) and Anders Hall (drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics team manager and discovery project leader, AstraZeneca R&D Lund).
- **Course fee:** Members of the organising bodies and the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Great Britain £1,840 + VAT, non-members £1,900 + VAT. Includes four nights' accommodation, meals and course documentation
- **Further information:** Julie Churchill, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN. Tel 020 7572 2261; fax 020 7572 2506; e-mail science@rpsgb.org. A course brochure and booking form can be downloaded from the "Events and meetings" page of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/worldofpharmacy).

DEATHS

Allen Recently, Michael Edwin Allen, MRPharmS, aged 74, of 12 Balmoral Close, Putney, London SW15 6RP. Mr Allen registered in 1955. (Tribute, Column 2)

Marsh On 17 January, Pamela Marsh, née Fox, MRPharmS, aged 68, of 25 Bryanston Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1EN. Mrs Marsh registered in 1961. She worked all her professional life, mainly part time, in various Birmingham hospitals and community pharmacies, spending her last 20 years at Solihull Hospital. She is survived by her husband Neil and daughters Jennifer Coley and Sara Goodwin.

Parkinson On 2 December 2006, William Roland Parkinson, FRPharmS, aged 84, of 141 Norris Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 3GS. Mr Parkinson registered in 1944.

Scales On 16 January, Jenny Osborne Scales, née Hughes, MRPharmS, aged 37, of 17 Wilson Close, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3US. Mrs Scales registered in 1991.

Tomlinson On 13 January, Peter William Tomlinson, aged 82, of 16 Harborough Road, Desborough, Northamptonshire NN14 2QY. Mr Tomlinson registered in 1945 and retired from the Register in 2006. Since 1952 he had owned and run a pharmacy business in Studfall Avenue in Corby, Northamptonshire.

Wilson On 14 February 2006, Shirley Wilson, née Marsden, MRPharmS, aged 51, of 15 Hayfield Close, Tytherington, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2UW.

TRIBUTES

Allen In a tribute to the late Michael Edwin Allen (see Column 1), MICHAEL CYMBALIST writes: Michael and I met in the early 1950s when students at the School of Pharmacy ("The Square"), at that time still located in Bloomsbury Square. We were guinea pigs for the newly introduced three-year BPharm honours degree of the University of London. The smallness of the premises allowed an intake each year of only about 30 students. Of these many of the male entrants were mature students who had completed their military service. Most of the rest of us were in our late teens, not long out of school, and within that group there evolved a sort of camaraderie among those living at home in London, which included Michael and myself. We found that we shared common interests and became friends. However, after graduation we lost touch until 1970 when our paths crossed again.

During the intervening years fundamental changes had occurred in the production of medicines, in the wake of the thalidomide tragedy. New regulatory legislation was envisaged that made it necessary for manufacturers to review the information they held on their products in order systematically to improve the data. Among those recruited to undertake this activity at the international headquarters of the Wellcome Foundation, where I happened to be based, was, to my surprise and delight, Michael. He excelled at the task, using his writing skills and scientific knowledge to produce high quality reports — accurate, objective and without bias.

When he left the company he became involved in various medicines-related activities. In particular he was knowledgeable in the field of product registration, especially with respect to the differences between the requirements of the European and the US authorities. Eventually he

became a regulatory affairs consultant and was in demand as a lecturer at technical symposia in numerous countries.

In his retirement he became a founder member and honorary secretary of Health Watch (www.healthwatch-uk.org), a UK charity that promotes the assessment and testing of treatments and better understanding by the public, that valid clinical trials are the best way of ensuring protection. This gave him the opportunity to pursue his constant quest to safeguard the health of the public, so maintaining the best traditions of his chosen profession.

Ill health was a constant feature of Michael's later years. However, he was extremely fortunate to have a devoted wife, Walli, who tirelessly nursed him through his many crises. My family and I extend our heartfelt sympathy to her and to the children of whom he was so proud — Justin, an aspiring theatre director, and the BBC News correspondent Karen Allen.

We shall miss this kind, generous, cultured and amusing friend.

Roebuck In a tribute to the late Nicola Anne Roebuck (*PJ*, 16 December, 2006, p755), MIKE CULSHAW writes: It is with great sadness that I write this tribute to Nicola following her untimely death in November 2006.

Nicola's pharmaceutical career spanned 33 years following her graduation from the Welsh School of Pharmacy in 1973. She completed her preregistration year in the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital before becoming a resident pharmacist at Leeds General Infirmary in 1973. She then undertook senior pharmacist positions at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle and at St Luke's Hospital in Bradford before her appointment as staff pharmacist for the area drug information service at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary in February 1980.

Nicola worked industriously for a quarter of a century to develop the medicines information service in Huddersfield, initially under the leadership of Brian Dawson and then myself from 1998. She was respected by clinicians, nurses, pharmacists and, indeed, patients for her quick, accurate and appropriate responses to their numerous complex queries.

Nicola was a pharmacist of exceptional ability and therefore she had an active involvement in most spheres of hospital pharmacy way beyond her medicines information portfolio. She actively

contributed to patient care in the fields of intensive care and oncology and had a national reputation for her expertise in clinical trials. Our senior nursing staff knew her as "the queen of patient group directions".

She had her own charismatic way of controlling the introduction of new medicines, many of which were locked in a cupboard to which only the privileged few were granted access. Her office was adjacent to the dispensary and so any attempt to prescribe or supply a sample or non-formulary medicine was soon abated.

She was a highly respected preregistration tutor and many practising pharmacists will look back at the guidance and inspiration that they received from Nicola in their formative years. Nicola loved teaching and delivered many lectures in the school of human and health sciences at the University of Huddersfield. She was an active member and ex-chairman of the Huddersfield branch of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

For me, she was a trusted confidante and I can recall numerous discussions at which we debated new ideas and ways of working for the pharmacy service. I always knew that if I could get her on board then the ideas would become reality.

Nicola was extremely articulate and a fun-loving person with a wicked sense of humour who was always a central figure at any pharmacy social event. On the other hand you soon knew if you caused her displeasure.

Nicola was, and is, still loved by her colleagues within pharmacy and on the wards at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. We will all miss her dearly but her strength of character will mean that her memory and firm views will live on for many years.

Nicola was first diagnosed with breast cancer in October 2002 and, incredibly, returned to work in January 2003 at the same time as receiving chemotherapy. We were all devastated when her symptoms returned in November 2005 and her battle with cancer was lost a year later. She was actively involved in her local church and I am certain that her strong faith helped her through the final stages of her illness.

Our thoughts are with her family — husband Bill and children Adam (19) and Lucy (16). They are a wonderful family and through them the spirit of Nicola Roebuck will shine for many years to come.

Moving?

Are you moving home? Remember to update your registration details with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Contact the registration section (tel 020 7572 2322; e-mail registration@rpsgb.org).

Royal Pharmaceutical Society and British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Evening lecture: history of drug discovery

- **Date and time:** Wednesday 14 February, 6.30pm.
- **Venue:** Royal Pharmaceutical Society headquarters, London.
- **Title:** "Behind the scenes of drug discovery".
- **Speaker:** Monique Simmonds, deputy keeper, Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
- **Further information:** Admission is free. Non-members are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served from 5.30pm.

DIARY

Headquarters meetings

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

Wednesday 14 February
Council Working Day. 11am.

Thursday 15 February
Council Working Day. 9am.

Local meetings

Events listed below are meetings of Royal Pharmaceutical Society branches. Details of all future meetings notified to *The Journal* appear in the Diary section of *PJ Online* (www.pjonline.com/diary)

Monday 12 February

Derby "Influences on prescribing" by Peter Burrill (specialist pharmaceutical adviser for public health). Conference Room, Landau Forte College, Fox Street, Derby. 7 for 7.30pm.

Isle of Man "Talk and tour of library facilities" by Christine Sugden, followed by annual general meeting. Keyll Darree. 7.15 for 8pm.

Nottingham "Treatment of depression: Nottingham guidelines and medicines use review problems" by Trevor Mills (GP, Churchfield Medical Practice). Foyer, School of Pharmacy (East Drive), University of Nottingham. Finger buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Reading "Infections" by Shabnam Iyer (consultant microbiologist). Education Centre, Royal Berkshire Hospital. 7.30pm for 8pm.

West Surrey "Hypertension" by Tuan Peng Chua (cardiologist, Royal Surrey County Hospital). Park Room, Guildford College, Stoke Road, Guildford. Light buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

Tuesday 13 February

Ayrshire "The role of the National Pharmacy Association development officer" by William Templeton. Gailes Lodge, Irvine. 7.30pm.

Durham "Pharmacist prescribing" by Carol Candlish (Sunderland University). Eden Arms Hotel, Rushyford. Coffee 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Leicestershire "Contracting for anticoagulation services: an explanation of how anticoagulation service contract was set up" by Gareth McCague. Leicester College, Aylestone Road, Leicester. Food 7pm, meeting 7.40pm.

South West Metropolitan "Alternative and complementary therapies" by Tom Marshall-

Manifold (complementary practitioner, Wimbledon Clinic of Natural Medicine). Phillip Constable Boardroom, St George's Hospital, London SW17. 7.15 for 8pm.

Wednesday 14 February
Leeds Meeting cancelled.

West Cumberland "Dealing with conflict in the pharmacy and other health and safety issues" by Pat McElroy and a representative from Woodward Safety, Health and Environment Ltd, Carlisle. Hundith Hill Hotel, near Cockermouth. 7.30pm followed by bar supper.

Thursday 15 February
Crawley, Horsham and Reigate

"Current affairs" by Douglas Simpson (member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council), followed by annual general meeting. Cambridge Hotel, 10 Bonehurst Road, Horley. Refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Clwyd "Anticoagulation therapy". Rossett Hall Hotel, Chester Road, Rossett, near Wrexham. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Southampton "New perspectives in herbal medicines" by Peter Houghton. Rose Road

Association, 300 Aldermeer Avenue, Southampton. 7.30 for 8pm.

Wirral "Update on prescribing in mental health" by Fiona Couper (chief pharmacist, West Cheshire and Wirral Mental Health NHS Trust). Postgraduate Education Centre, Clatterbridge Hospital. Refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Monday 19 February

Barnet "New advances in the treatment of common eye conditions" by Marvyn Elton (optometrist and pharmacist). Education and Information Centre, Barnet Hospital. Hot meal 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.
Bromley "Cholesterol" by Ivor Shipley (pharmacist). Frogna Postgraduate Medical Centre, Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup. Buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

Tuesday 20 February

Brighton "Paediatric infections" by Melanie Newport (senior lecturer, infectious diseases, Brighton and Sussex Medical School). Audrey Emerton Education Centre, Eastern Road, Brighton. Supper 7pm (advise secretary if wishing to eat), meeting 8pm.

East Metropolitan "Your Society, your future" by Gerald Alexander (Vice-President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Wanstead Library, Spratt Hall Road, Wanstead. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Oxfordshire "Suicide prevention" by Julia Spencer (specialist registrar, University Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital). George Pickering Postgraduate Centre, Level 3, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington. Food 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 21 February
South East Metropolitan

"Pandemic flu: service continuity plans for pharmacy" by David Griffiths (emergency planning manager, Southwark Primary Care Trust). Clarendon Hotel, Montpelier Row, Blackheath, London. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Teesside "Challenges in dermatology" by Thomas Poyner (GP with special interest in dermatology). David Lloyd Leisure, Tees Barrage Way, Stockton on Tees. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

West Hertfordshire "Aromatherapy" by Maria Lis-Balchin. National Pharmacy Association, St Peter's Street, St Albans. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Thursday 22 February

Slough "Legal responsibilities" by Chris Newdick (school of law, University of Reading). John Lister Postgraduate Centre, (Entrance 4) Wexham Park Hospital. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.



Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

London headquarters

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

Scottish Department

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

Welsh office

Headquarters of the Society in Wales 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 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

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

Franklin Bryony Dean Franklin (née Dean; ex-Bath 1987-90 and The Square 1996-99) and David are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter Katie Heather, on 23 January. Now at 4 King Edward's Gardens, London W3 9RG.

Correction

Due to an administrative error, the Official Notice of the Industrial Pharmacists Group election (p174) said that nominations need to be signed by at least five members of the group. Nominations only need to be signed by one member.