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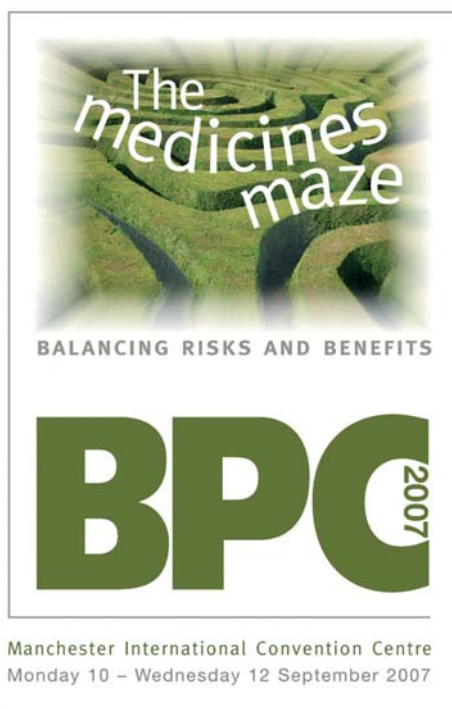
Applications invited for BPC 2007 conference science medal

Applications for the 2007 British Pharmaceutical Conference science medal are being invited by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. The award recognises a research scientist who works in a pharmaceutical or allied discipline, in industry or academia, has a proven track record of independent research and has published work that shows outstanding promise.

Applicants from Britain or overseas, with no more than 10 years' experience in the field as at 31 March at the post-doctoral level, are invited to submit a full curriculum vitae detailing personal information, past and present appointments, research responsibilities and works published. A brief résumé of two pages should also be submitted indicating discoveries made, with relevant publications (no more than 10) attached. The winner will receive a commemorative medal and a cheque for £750 and will be invited to present a 30-minute lecture at the 2008 conference.

Applications should be submitted by 31 March. The successful applicant will be announced by the end of May.

Further information on submission guidelines and the application process will be made available on the BPC website (www.bpc2007.org). Alternatively, enquiries can be addressed to Sanobar Shaikh, Science Adviser, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2435; e-mail sanobar.shaikh@rpsgb.org).



BPC 2007 is being held in Manchester from Monday 10 September to Wednesday 12 September. BPC 2008 is scheduled to be held at the same venue in the second week of September 2008.

This week

- **BPC 2007 science medal**
The Society is inviting applications for the 2007 British Pharmaceutical Conference science medal, which recognises a research scientist who works in a pharmaceutical or allied discipline, in industry or academia, has a proven track record of independent research and has published work that shows outstanding promise (p199).
- **HPG election**
An election is to be held to fill two places on the committee of the Hospital Pharmacists Group (p199).
- **New "Orange guide" published**
The latest edition of the "Orange guide", an MHRA reference work for manufacturers and distributors of medicines, has been published by the Pharmaceutical Press, ending 35 years of publication by the Stationery Office (p200).

Hospital Pharmacists Group seeks committee members to represent England

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Hospital Pharmacists Group is seeking candidates to fill two vacancies on the group committee.

Both vacancies this year are for committee members to represent England. Candidates must be resident in England and may only be nominated, and voted for, by group members also resident in England.

Nominations must be made by 17 March. The election, if needed, will be carried out by postal ballot in April.

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

The election arises from the retirement of David Corral and Tim Root, both of whom are eligible to seek re-election. Committee members who continue in office are Andrew Davies, David Miller, Richard Needle, Ray Fitzpatrick and David Webb, representing England, Angela Munday, for Scotland, and Jenny Joy, for Wales. Council members Colin Ranshaw and Graham Phillips also serve on the committee, which is chaired by Professor Fitzpatrick.

Official Notice, p203

Membership groups

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has established special interest groups for community pharmacists, for veterinary pharmacists, for industrial, regulatory and technical pharmacists, for hospital pharmacists and for pharmacy academic staff. The groups hold meetings to consider topics of interest within their own fields of practice and they provide a source of advice to the Society's Council on specialist matters. A pharmacist whose employment does not automatically entitle him or her to join a particular group but who has a demonstrable interest in that field of practice may be admitted at the discretion of the group committee.

Details of the groups can be obtained from the Society. Contact details are given below.

Community Pharmacists Group Contact: Angela Canning, practice division (tel 020 7572 2412; e-mail angela.canning@rpsgb.org).

Veterinary Pharmacists Group Contact: Lorraine Fearon, practice division (tel 020 7572 2409; e-mail lorraine.fearon@rpsgb.org).

Industrial Pharmacists Group Contact: Angela Canning, practice division (tel 020 7572 2412; e-mail angela.canning@rpsgb.org).

Hospital Pharmacists Group Contact: Lorraine Fearon, practice division (tel 020 7572 2409; e-mail lorraine.fearon@rpsgb.org).

Academic Pharmacy Group The Contact: Damian Day, education and registration directorate (tel 020 7572 2215; e-mail damian.day@rpsgb.org).

Law and ethics bulletin

Clarification on "Changes to the return and storage of waste medicines in Scotland"

The intention of the Law and Ethics Bulletin on "Changes to the return and storage of waste medicines in Scotland" (*PJ*, 2 December 2006, p675) was to confirm that in Scotland the Waste Management Licensing Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2006 enabled certain waste to be returned to pharmacies from care services, including all care homes (irrespective of whether or not they employ nurses).

"Care services" for the purposes on the above Regulations has the same meaning as in Section 2 of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001.

By way of clarification the care services defined as those from which pharmacies in Scotland may accept returned waste include the following:

- (a) A support service
- (b) A care home service
- (c) A school care accommodation service
- (d) An independent health care service
- (e) A nurse agency
- (f) A child care agency
- (g) A secure accommodation service
- (h) An offender accommodation service
- (i) An adoption service

- (j) A fostering service
- (k) An adult placement service
- (l) Child minding
- (m) Day care of children
- (n) A housing support service

For the legal definitions of each type of care service, please refer to Subsections 2(2) to 2(27) of the Act, which can be accessed through the Office of Public Sector Information website (www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2001/20010008.htm).

Scottish Ministers set up the National Care Standards Committee to develop national standards. Individual standards covering all types of current (or future) registered care settings can be accessed through the Scottish Executive website (www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/health/care/17652/9328). The introduction section of each standard gives a fuller description of what is included in each type of care service, for example:

- In Scotland, hospices are part of the independent health care sector. . . . The hospices have charitable status and make no charge to the users of their services.
- School care accommodation services are provided for the purpose of the pupil being in attendance at a public, independent or grant-aided school;

and consist of the provision, in a place in or outwith the school, of residential accommodation.

Clarification on "Validity period for owing slips"

The Law and Ethics Bulletin published in *The Pharmaceutical Journal* on 20 January (p90) stated that a prescription for a Schedule 5 Controlled Drug, a prescription-only medicine, a pharmacy medicine or a general sale list medicine is valid for six months from the appropriate date, unless it is a repeatable prescription.

By way of clarification, pharmacists are advised that the six-month validity period of an owing for a prescription for a pharmacy (P) or general sale list medicine (GSL) is not a legislative requirement but is, instead, a professional one. However, where a P or GSL medicine is being prescribed off-licence, then legislation would prevent an owing from being supplied more than six months after the appropriate date. Legislation also prevents owings for Schedule 5 Controlled Drugs or prescription-only medicines being supplied more than six months from the appropriate date, unless it is a repeatable prescription.

Pharmaceutical Care Awards

The Pharmaceutical Journal is calling for entries for the 15th Pharmaceutical Care Awards, which recognise excellence in the development of pharmaceutical services.

If you were instrumental in developing a new idea or new way of working that improved patient care in 2006, you could enter this year's awards and receive one of pharmacy's top accolades.

The awards will be presented at a special event to be held in London on 29 June. Three significant prizes will be awarded (subject to the receipt of a sufficient number of appropriate entries).

Who can enter? Pharmacists from all disciplines can enter singly or in small groups. Team efforts involving other health professionals are also eligible, but pharmacists should play a leading role. Entries can relate to the pharmacist's core activity of drug therapy or to peripheral activities such as health promotion. Overseas entries are also welcome.

What should your entry include? Entries should describe why, where and how the initiatives were



undertaken. Papers will be marked for their originality, quality of outcome, improvement to patient care and general merit.

Entrants will not be asked to categorise their papers before submission.

How will entries be judged? All entries will be read by the editor of *The Pharmaceutical Journal* and then sent to an appropriate judge on a panel of representatives drawn from professional bodies

and the awards' sponsors. A shortlist will then be drawn up and papers re-marked by specialist judges.

Award presentation The award presentations will take place at a special event in London on 29 June and finalists will be invited to attend as guests of *The Pharmaceutical Journal* and our sponsors.

The judging process will be completed by the end of May and finalists will be contacted then with details of travel and hotel arrangement.

Awards to any overseas winners will be presented in their home country by the organisers.

How to enter Complete the entry form on pA6 or download an entry form from *PJ Online* (www.pjonline.com). The closing date for entries is 30 March.

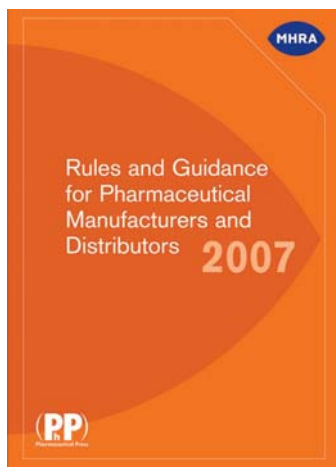
Further information Further information is available from Emma Kerby-Evans, The Pharmaceutical Journal, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2414; e-mail emma.kerby-evans@pharmj.org.uk).

New edition of the “Orange guide” now available from the Pharmaceutical Press

After more than 35 years as a Stationary Office publication, the “Orange guide”, an essential reference work for manufacturers and distributors of medicines, is now available in a new edition published by the Pharmaceutical Press (the imprint of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society’s publishing operation).

The book concerned is “Rules and guidance for pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors”, published since 1971 and always generally known as the “Orange guide”. For the first time, the guide is also available digitally on CD-ROM and online via MedicinesComplete, the RPS Publishing online database resource.

Compiled by the inspection and standards division of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, the guide collates in one source European and UK guidance documents and information on legislation relating to the manufacture and distribution of



medicines for human use. Changes in the new edition include detailed amendment to the EU guide to good manufacturing practice, detailed revisions to the EU directive on medicinal products for human use and the inclusion of the new directive laying down the principles and guidelines of good manufacturing practice in respect of medicinal products for human use.

The new edition also has restructured contents, clearer text design and a subject index.

The 448-page paperback book costs £40. A single-user CD-ROM costs £47. UK orders can be placed by telephone (01767 604971), fax (01767 601640) or e-mail (rps@turpin-distribution.com) or through the Pharmaceutical Press website (www.pharmpress.com).

An official launch of the new edition will be held at the MHRA’s London premises on 23 February.

Replica jars

Hand-finished replicas of seven ceramic jars from the collections of the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society are available for purchase from the Society:

- Leech jars — copies of a 19th century glazed earthenware show jar, 15cm high, £50
- Drug storage jars — replicas of a pot used for storing candied orange peel, 16cm high, £56
- Syrup jars — copies of a jar for rose syrup with agaric, 18cm high, £86
- Pill jars — replicas of a jar dated 1723 and used for cochia major pills, 8.5cm high, £25.
- Viper lozenge jars — copies of a late 17th century jar, 8.5cm high, £25.
- Coral lozenge jars — replicas of a jar dated 1674, 8.5cm high, £25.
- Extract jars — copies of an 18th century jar used for extract of Peruvian bark, 8.5cm high, £25.

The jars are available by mail order. Full details and an order form can be downloaded from the museum section of the Society’s website (www.rpsgb.org/informationresources). Alternatively, orders can be placed by contacting the museum (tel 020 7572 2210; e-mail museum@rpsgb.org).

Advertisement

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 inquiries

The Statutory Committee will meet at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1, at 9.30am on Tuesday 20, Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 February 2007 to hear the following matters:

1. The committee will hear the new inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against Rosalie Mary Pattison (registration number 66575), which alleges that taking for the purposes of self-medication and/or for unknown purposes, dishonestly and without the authority of a prescription, dihydrocodeine tablets, loperamide tablets, diazepam 5mg and 10mg tablets, omeprazole tablets, and Sudafed Plus tablets belonging to her employer, may amount to misconduct.
2. The committee will resume the inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against Neil Hutchinson (registration number 79982) and Carol Janette Hutchinson (registration number 79981) which alleges, in relation to Mr Hutchinson, that a number of dispensing errors; the supply of a Controlled Drug, namely 30 Concerta X tablets, against a prescription for 14 such tablets; a failure to comply with the labelling regulations; a breach of Regulation 19 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 relating to record-keeping; a failure to supply a patient with his medication and the pharmacy's failure to deal with the subsequent complaint appropriately; the supply of medication to a patient without reference to a prescription or a copy prescription and without checking with the prescriber; an over-supply of candesartan tablets and a failure to label this supply accurately; a failure to keep a verifiable audit trail of the supply of prescription only medication; the supply of

medication to a patient by reference only to previously incorrectly supplied medication and the labelling from an old monitored dosage system pack; a failure to act in the best interests of a patient; a failure to deal with a patient's mother in a professional and courteous manner; a failure as superintendent pharmacist to have in place a system to identify each pharmacist responsible for particular supply; a failure to heed the advice of the Society; a failure to have in place adequate procedures for dispensing in monitored dosage systems; the pharmacy's inadequate procedures for dealing with errors and complaints; an unacceptably dirty and untidy pharmacy; a failure to assess or remove date-expired chemicals and/or medication; the presence at the pharmacy of patient returned medication, including prescription-only medication, on a stairway to which customers had access, in the stockroom and in the office; and the dispensing of oiwings without reference to the relevant prescription, may amount to misconduct. In relation to Mrs Hutchinson, the Society's Council alleges that the supply of a Controlled Drug, namely 30 Concerta X tablets, against a prescription for 14 such tablets; a breach of Regulation 19 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 relating to record-keeping; the pharmacy's failure to deal appropriately with a complaint; a failure of the pharmacy to keep a verifiable audit trail of the supply of prescription-only medication; the failure of the pharmacy to have in place a system to identify each pharmacist responsible for a particular supply; a failure to heed the advice of the Society; the supply of medication to a patient using only previously incorrect medication and labelling from an old monitored dosage system pack; the pharmacy's failure to have in place adequate procedures governing dispensing in monitored dosage systems; the pharmacy's inadequate procedures for dealing with errors and complaints; an unacceptably dirty and untidy pharmacy; a failure to assess or remove date-expired chemicals and/or medicines; the presence at the pharmacy of patient-returned medication, including

Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Residential course: Stability testing of pharmaceuticals

- **Date:** Monday 19 February (noon) to Wednesday 21 February 2007 (1.30pm).
- **Venue:** Moller Centre, Cambridge.
- **Content:** Chemical and physical aspects of drug substance and product stability; development pharmaceuticals and stability testing; rational design of stability testing methods; selection and validation of stability-indicating analytical methods; stability testing of biotechnology products; product packaging and stability testing; the UK and European regulatory perspective; international aspects of stability testing for product registration; characterising materials with respect to physical stability, and practical aspects of finished product testing. Workshop sessions will use practical examples to illustrate essential steps in developing stability testing protocols.
- **Aim:** To provide a programme of value to those involved in stability testing of pharmaceuticals and related products, including formulation scientists, analysts, those involved in regulatory affairs and recent graduates working in an R&D environment, including workers in related fields such as foods and cosmetics.
- **Course fees:** Member of the Society or APS £1,692; others £1,762.50. Fees include two nights' accommodation, meals and refreshments, VAT, course documentation and a CD-ROM with relevant reference sources.
- **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). The course brochure can be downloaded from the "Events and meetings" page of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/worldofpharmacy).

- prescription only medication, on a stairway to which customers had access, in the stockroom and in the office; and a failure to record maximum and minimum refrigerator temperatures daily, may amount to misconduct.
3. The committee will deliver its determination relating to the application for restoration to the Register from Hasmukhant Nanji Badiani.
 4. The committee will deliver its determination of the inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against Anilkumar Ishverbhai Patel (registration number 70633) and Hemantika Anil Patel (registration number 71179).

David Gomez
Secretary to the Statutory
Committee

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.

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

Hospital Pharmacists Group Committee Election 2006

Nominations are invited from members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Hospital Pharmacists Group for candidates to stand for election to the committee.

There are vacancies for two committee members to represent England.

Candidates must be group members resident in England and may be nominated only by group members also resident in England.

Nominations should be submitted to Robert Clayton, secretary to the Hospital Pharmacists Group, at the Society's headquarters, and should be received by 17 March 2007.

Nominations need not be made on a special form. The proposer should state his or her registered name, registered address and registration number. The nominee must submit confirmation that he or she is agreeable to the nomination.

If more candidates are nominated than there are places to fill, an election will be carried out by postal ballot in April 2007. Only members of the group living in England will be eligible to vote for two committee members to represent England. Candidates will be required to submit a statement of policy amounting to no more than two hundred words.

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 Hospital 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.

Robert Clayton
Secretary to the Hospital Pharmacists Group

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

DEATHS

Gratton On 2 February, Lorna Gratton, née Jones, aged 82, of Cyfarthfa, 12 Tollfield Road, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 9PN. Mrs Gratton registered in 1946 and retired from the Register in 2002.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

The following are among recent additions to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's library in London. Books available for loan can be borrowed by members and by preregistration trainees and pharmacy students who have registered with the library. The loan period is 28 days. A loan may be renewed if the item is not required by another user. Details of all titles added to the library since 1991 can be found in the library's searchable online catalogue of publications (olib.rpsgb.org.uk)

- Adverse drug reactions, an open learning programme for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Randall C. 4th ed. Manchester: Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education; 2006.
- Asthma in focus. Murphy A. London: Pharmaceutical Press; 2007.
- Breakthrough 2007 life enhancing careers: your guide to careers in the pharmaceutical industry. Dorking: Breakthrough; 2006.
- Clinical governance what's it all about? A workbook for community pharmacy staff. Vohra S. Leyland: Chorley South Ribble Primary Care Trust; 2005.
- Concise clinical pharmacology. Greenstein B, Greenstein A. London: Pharmaceutical Press; 2007.
- How to regulate health care in England: an international perspective. Lewis R, Alvarez-Rosete A, Mays N. London: King's Fund; 2006.
- Musculoskeletal disorders: an open learning programme for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Manchester: Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education; 2006.
- NPA Drug Tariff handbook 2007. St Albans: National Pharmacy Association; 2007.
- Schizophrenia: cancer of the spirit: an essential teaching aid for patients and staff new to the field of mental health. Macaulay A. Ipswich: Cardinal Broadcast; 2004.
- Target COPD. London: Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry; 2006.
- The right medicine, the right patient, the right time: a manifesto. London: Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry; 2007.

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 and 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, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London, SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2261; fax 020 7572 2506; e-mail science@rpsgb.org).

DIARY

Headquarters meetings

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

Monday 19 February

Statutory Committee. 9.30am.

Tuesday 20 February

Veterinary Pharmacists Group Committee. 9am.
Statutory Committee. 9.30am.

Wednesday 21 February

Statutory Committee. 9.30am.

Thursday 22 February

Statutory Committee. 9.30am.

Local meetings

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

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.

Central Lancashire Annual general meeting, followed by "Current affairs" by John Gentle (member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council). Foster Building, University of Central Lancashire, Corporation Street, Preston. Meal 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

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 available 7pm. Please advise the secretary if you wish to eat. Meeting 8pm.

Chelmsford "Cardiovascular risk assessment" by Jeremy Fletcher (consultant physician, Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford). Masons Too, London Road, Chelmsford. Refreshments 7.30pm, 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.

Veterinary diploma

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society offers a diploma in veterinary pharmacy and a postgraduate certificate in companion animal health care.

The core programme for the diploma consists of four modules, each of which includes a written assignment. Those aiming for the diploma must complete all four modules, undertake recorded practical experience, submit a dissertation, sit an oral examination and complete two consecutive three-day residential periods at Harper Adams University College, near Newport, Shropshire, where a full range of livestock units is available for study. The full diploma course can be taken in one year or spread over up to four years.

The postgraduate certificate is obtained by completing two modules through distance learning and attending a study day at Harper Adams.

Further information and registration forms can be obtained from Lorraine Fearon, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2409; e-mail lorraine.fearon@rpsgb.org).

Hull "Diagnosis and management of osteoporosis". Postgraduate Education Centre, Hull Royal Infirmary, Fountain Street, Hull. 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. Light buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Thursday 22 February

Plymouth "Pain management" by Richard Sawyer (consultant in pain management, Derriford Hospital). Medical Centre, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. Buffet from 7.15pm.

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.

Tuesday 27 February

Bath "Dermatology" by Chris Lovell. Room 6 West, University of Bath. 7.30 for 8pm.

Croydon "Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma" by Ruth Whitfield (respiratory consultant, Mayday Hospital). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Mayday Hospital. 8pm, preceded by buffet.

Harrow and Hillingdon "Pharmacy information

technology: the new agenda" by Mark Johnson. Cumberland Hotel, Harrow. Light buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 28 February

South Cheshire "Palliative care: the team and the drugs" by Jackie Pooler (Macmillan nurse) and Graham Leng (medical director, Hospice of The Good Shepherd, Chester). Fourways Hotel, Delamere. Refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Thursday 1 March

Manchester, Salford and Trafford "Diabetes: devices and desires — which pen and monitoring device?" by diabetes nurse specialists (Manchester Primary Care Trust). Platt Lane Complex, Yew Tree Road, Fallowfield, Manchester. Light refreshments. 7 for 7.30pm.

Mid Glamorgan East Annual Christmas meal. Cinnamon Tree, Upper Boat, Treforest. 7.30 for 8pm.

Friday 2 March

Clwyd "Another rummage in the cellar" (wine tasting) by Alan Hughes. Wrexham Medical Institute. 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

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Welsh office

Headquarters of the Society in Wales 029 2073 0310; fax 029 2073 0311; e-mail wales@rpsgb.org

Information centre

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Pharmacists' advisory service

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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

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