



Society appoints KCL professor as its new chief scientific adviser

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has announced the appointment of Jayne Lawrence as its new chief scientific adviser, as from 30 April.

Professor Lawrence will work with the Society's science team at the London office for two-and-a-half days a week, while continuing in her existing position as professor of biophysical pharmaceuticals at King's College London, also now for two-and-a-half days a week.

In her new role she will provide scientific advice and expertise to the Society and its Council and will work to develop the Society's portfolio of science activity. Another key aspect of the role will be to act as a media spokeswoman for the Society on science issues.

Professor Lawrence registered as a pharmacist in 1982. She joined the staff of the Chelsea College school of pharmacy (which later became the KCL department of pharmacy) in 1984.

She was a member of the Society's Academic Pharmacy Group Committee for several years and served as group chairman for two years.

Professor Lawrence said: "I am delighted to be joining the Society at a time of great opportunity for the profession and am looking forward to working with the Council, staff and members to strengthen the Society's links with the scientific community."



Jayne Lawrence: working to strengthen links with the science community

Professor Lawrence succeeds Tony Moffat, who was the Society's director of pharmaceutical sciences from 1994 to 1998 and chief scientist from 1998 to 2005. Professor Moffat also worked for the Society part-time, combining the post with a chair in pharmaceutical analysis at the School of Pharmacy, University of London.

This week

- **Chief scientific adviser**
The Society has appointed a King's College London professor as its new chief scientific adviser (p533).
- **AGM debate on technicians**
The Society's annual general meeting is to debate the involvement of technicians in the Society (p533).

Death of Statutory Committee member Bob Wood

Bob Wood, a member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Statutory Committee for the past 12 years, has died.

Paying tribute to Mr Wood during the Statutory Committee's meeting last week, the chairman, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, said that Mr Wood had been a much loved and valued colleague. He combined a considerable knowledge of pharmacy with an unimpeachable integrity and real perception. "So far as he was concerned, there was no compromise with the higher standards of the profession, and at the same time he was as forgiving and gentle as anyone I have ever had the privilege of working with."

David Reissner, a lawyer who regularly represents pharmacists before the committee, said that Mr Wood always had incisive questions but his humanity would shine through.

The Society's Secretary and Registrar, Ann Lewis, said that the profession would miss Mr Wood. He was a special person, and she endorsed all that had been said about him.

Tribute p537

AGM to debate involvement of pharmacy technicians in the Society

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's annual general meeting on 16 May is to be asked to debate a motion opposing any move to allow pharmacy technicians to become full members of either the Society or any future pharmacy organisation "akin to a royal college".

The motion — the only one received — has been submitted by Mark Walker, of Oxford, who has already made clear his views on the issue at a briefing meeting held by the Society (*PJ*, 17 March, p297) and in a letter to *The Journal* (*PJ*, 7 April, p396) that has attracted subsequent comment from other letter writers.

Mr Walker's motion is as follows: "This annual general meeting directs Council and the Society to discontinue any consideration, discussion or action that may lead to pharmacy technicians becoming full members of the Society or of the proposed royal college." (Despite the wording of the motion, the AGM has no power to issue directions. However, any motion carried at an AGM is given serious consideration by the Council.)

A revised AGM Official Notice, incorporating Mr Walker's motion, appears on p535. Also on that page is a panel incorporating the Council's proposed rules of procedure for debate at AGMs. The meeting will be asked to adopt these rules before considering the motion. The rules of procedure have been expanded since last year (*PJ*, 13 May, p575) by the addition of rules on proposed amendments to a motion and on proposals that a motion should be put to an immediate vote.

It has also been announced that before the AGM, which begins at 7.30pm, there will be a presentation at 6.45pm on the Government's White Paper, "Trust, assurance and safety: the regulation of health professionals in the 21st century", followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

Tea and sandwiches will be available from 5.30pm and at 6pm there will be the presentation of fellowship certificates for 2006 followed by the presentation of the Charter gold and silver medals for 2007.

Welsh Pharmacy Board continues discussion on communications

Finding ways to improve communication with the Society's members in Wales is continuing to exercise the minds of the Welsh Pharmacy Board of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

After debate at its second formal meeting, held on 26 April, the board decided to hold further discussions to consider ways of developing "full and effective two-way communication" between board and members.

It was agreed that an ideal opportunity for starting this process would be a scheduled meeting for branch secretaries and pharmacy development group representatives on 3 May, which would enable the board to gain opinion and ideas from members across Wales.

The board also agreed that, in addition to engaging effectively with members in Wales, it would develop a new format for the annual meeting for members in Wales. But it rejected a suggestion that it should hold one board meeting outside Cardiff each year.

Board members also presented brief reports on the current status of each branch in Wales, following their contact with the branches to which they had each been assigned. It was agreed that these reports would be used to inform further the discussions on how to enhance engagement with the branches. This work would be taken forward by the board's Communications and Public Affairs Group and would also be discussed at the meeting on 3 May.

Public affairs The board heard that an initiative by its communications and public affairs group had led to nine Assembly members visiting pharmacies within their constituencies in the run-up to the Welsh Assembly Government election on 3 May. The board's vice-chairman, Marc Donovan, who also chairs the Communications and Public Affairs Group, said that the visits had been facilitated by the Welsh Directorate and a board member had been in attendance on each occasion. The visits had successfully promoted pharmacy to both current and prospective AMs, he said.



Secondary care The meeting discussed how the board could work more closely in the future with the Trust Chief Pharmacists Group, following a presentation on developments in the role of pharmacy in the secondary care setting given by Dave Roberts, chief pharmacist at University Hospital of Wales. Mr Roberts explained that the Trust Chief Pharmacists Group brings together the chief pharmacists from each NHS trust in Wales to ensure links between the trusts, and to reflect on Welsh

health policy in the context of secondary care. It has a range of sub-groups that look at various areas of practice within secondary care.

Specialist pharmacists The board was given an update on progress in the development of consultant pharmacists and pharmacists with a special interest. The board heard that the Welsh Assembly Government had set up a working group to look at the two roles and how they will be developed. The board was asked to nominate two pharmacists, ideally including a pharmacist prescriber and/or a pharmacist with a community pharmacy diploma, to engage with the working group.

Regulation White Paper The board confirmed its intention to engage fully with developments surrounding the White Paper, "Trust assurance and safety: the regulation of health professionals in the 21st century". It would urge all members to become involved in the issue because of its importance. The board made its decision after receiving an update on the White Paper from the Society's Secretary and Registrar, Ann Lewis.

Representation on the board The board considered its current geographical and sectoral representation and agreed that no co-option of additional members was necessary. It did, however, agree that input from the primary care sector was important and requested that an invitation be extended to primary care pharmacists to make a presentation to the board at its meeting in July and to invite a primary care pharmacist to observe at future meetings of the board.

'Medicines, ethics and practice': May cumulative list of amendments

In the first issue of each month, The Journal updates the guidance on the legal status of medicines published in the 30th edition (July 2006) of 'Medicines, ethics and practice: A guide

for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians'. The amendments are given in bold type when added to the list and repeated each month in light type. A product's legal status can be obtained

by consulting first the latest amendment list and then the guide. The abbreviations used in the list are explained in the key to annotations in the body of the guide (p33).

Human medicines

Abilify tablets entry should read: Abilify preparations POM
 Acomplia tablets POM
 Anadin Ultra Double Strength capsules P
 Aricept Evess tablets POM
 Baraclude tablets POM
 Bisodol Extra tablets GSL
Byetta injection POM
 Caramet CR tablets POM
 Champix tablets POM
 Clairette 2000/35 POM
 Clenil Modulite inhaler POM
 Competact tablets POM
 Contiflo XL capsules POM
 Dermax therapeutic shampoo P
 Detrunorm XL capsules POM
Doxadura XL tablets POM
 DulcoEase capsules GSL

Efexor XL tablets entry should read: Efexor XL preparations POM
Elaprase injection POM
 Emselex tablets POM
 Episenta preparations POM
 Erdotin capsules POM
 Etopan XL tablets POM
 Evoltra solution for infusion POM
 Evotrox oral solution POM
 Exforge tablets POM
 Exjade dispersible tablets POM
 Exubera insulin POM
 Finacea gel POM
 Fosrenol tablets POM
 Gardisil suspension for injection POM
 Grazax sublingual tablets POM
 Ibuprofen entry: after "in the case of liquid preparations of ibuprofen, individual unit doses of not more than 5ml each to a maximum of 20 unit doses

GSL;" add "ibuprofen oral suspension with a strength of 2% or less, supplied in multidose containers of not more than 100ml, GSL;"
 Infanrix-IPV + Hib POM
Intrinsa transdermal patches POM
Januvia POM
Levemir InnoLet POM
 Loratidine entry: change "and in children aged 12 years and over" to "and in children aged two years and over and weighing 30kg or more"
 Lucentis injection POM
Medikinet tablets CD POM
Medikinet XL capsules CD POM
 Mefenoxal injections POM
 Mefenoxal oral solution POM
 Moviprep bowel cleansing solution P
 Nexavar tablets POM

Nicorette microtab entry should read: Nicorette Microtab GSL
 Opizone tablets POM
 Penciclovir entry should read: Penciclovir POM, but as 1% cream for treatment of cold sores in adults and children over 12 years P
 Pretact POM
Prezista tablets POM
 Prialt solution for infusion POM
 Risperdal Quicklet tablets POM
 Sinepin capsules POM
 Sprycel tablets POM
 Suboxone tablets CD No Register POM
 Sulent capsules POM
 Syner-Kinase powder for solution for injection or infusion POM
Thelin tablets POM
 Tradorec XL tablets POM
 Tysabri solution for infusion POM
 Versatis plasters POM

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).

Annual general meeting: revised notice

Notice is hereby given that the 166th annual general meeting of the members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain will take place at 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN on Wednesday May 16 2007 at 7.30pm.

The following business will be conducted:

1. Presentation of the annual review of the Council for 2006.
2. Presentation of the financial statements for 2006.
3. Presentation of the revised Code of Ethics for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians.
4. Adoption of rules of procedure for matters raised and motions submitted for debate (Byelaws Section VI, paragraph 3) (see Panel): "A member may raise any matter or move any motion at any annual general meeting of which he has given the Secretary notice in writing not later than the 20th day of April in each year in which the said meeting is to be held. The Rules of Procedure for debating such motions shall be proposed by the Council and presented for adoption at each annual general meeting at which such a motion is to be moved." The proposed rules are published below and will be circulated at the meeting.
5. Consideration of any matters raised or motions moved by members of which notice has been given in writing no later than 20 April 2007.

The following motion will be moved by Mark Walker, MRPharmS: "This annual general meeting directs Council and the Society to discontinue any consideration, discussion or action that may lead to pharmacy technicians becoming full members of the Society or of the proposed royal college."

Ann Lewis
Secretary and Registrar

The following programme of events takes place on Wednesday 16 May

Rules of procedure for matters raised and motions submitted for debate at annual general meetings (Byelaw VI, Paragraph 3)

Before considering matters raised and motions submitted for debate at the Society's annual general meeting (Official Notices, column 1), the meeting will be asked to adopt the following rules of procedure under Byelaw VI, paragraph 3, as approved by the Council of the Society on 28 March 2007.

Matters raised

1. The person raising the matter shall be allowed five minutes to introduce the discussion.
2. Any other speaker may speak for up to three minutes.
3. The person raising the matter shall then have three minutes to respond to the discussion.
4. The chairman of the meeting, or other person nominated by the chairman, may at any stage in the discussion, state the views of the Council or give any information in the chairman's possession which may assist the meeting in discussing the matter.
5. No vote will be taken on matters raised.
6. In the event of there being insufficient time to debate all matters raised (which will be decided by the chairman), the outstanding matters shall be left to lie upon the table.

Motions

7. The person proposing the motion shall be allowed five minutes to introduce the discussion.
8. All motions shall require a seconder. Any member attending the meeting

(other than the proposer) may second a motion. A seconder may speak for up to three minutes.

9. Any other speaker may speak for up to three minutes.
10. The person proposing the motion shall then have up to three minutes to respond to the discussion.
11. The chairman of the meeting, or other person nominated by the chairman, may at any stage in the discussion, state the views of the Council or give any information in the chairman's possession which may assist the meeting in discussing the motion.
12. Once a motion is proposed to the meeting, and seconded, an amendment may be moved without notice.
13. When an amendment is moved, and seconded, no other amendment may be taken until the previous one has been cleared. If carried, an amendment becomes substantive and is put as a new motion upon which a further amendment may be moved. If the amendment is not carried, a second amendment may be moved but only one amendment shall be submitted for discussion at one time.
14. The mover of every original motion, but not of any amendment, shall have a right of reply, immediately after which the question shall be put from the chair.
15. No member, unless expressly mentioned in these rules of procedure, may normally speak more

than once on the same motion unless permission be given by the chairman to give information or if the attention of the chairman is drawn to a point of order.

16. If, during a debate upon a motion, it is moved "That the question be now put", the chairman shall decide whether the debate has proceeded long enough to justify accepting the motion. If the motion is accepted and seconded, it takes precedence over all other business and must be put to the meeting immediately without discussion. If the motion is carried, the motion under debate shall be put to the meeting immediately without further discussion, subject to the mover being permitted to reply to the debate. If the motion under debate is an amendment and it is defeated, the main question is not affected by the above procedure and the debate upon it may continue.
17. All motions shall be put to a vote. Every member present shall have one vote which will be cast by show of hands unless a motion for a secret ballot is carried. A motion will be decided by a simple majority of votes. In a case of equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
18. In the event of there being insufficient time to debate all motions (which will be decided by the chairman), a vote will be taken on each outstanding motion which will then be referred to the Council for consideration.

before the AGM: 5.30pm, tea and sandwiches available for those attending the AGM; 6pm, presentation of fellowship certificates for 2006, followed by presentation of the Charter gold medal and Charter silver medal for 2007; 6.45pm, presentation on the Government's White Paper entitled "Trust, assurance and safety: the regulation of health professionals in the 21st century", followed by questions.

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 23 April, Tuesday 24 April, Wednesday 25 April and Thursday 26 April 2007.

1. Following the inquiry into the case of **Rakesh Kumar Panesar** (registration number 72139), the committee directed the removal from the Register of the name of Mr Panesar, who:

(1) on 8 June 2001 at Birmingham Magistrates' Court was convicted of (i) failing to comply with the requirements of an improvement notice under Section 21 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, requiring him to carry out remedial works to repair defects, contrary to Section 33(1)(g) of the Act; (ii) failing to comply with the requirements of an improvement notice under Section 21 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, requiring him to provide a hot water supply, contrary to Section 33(1)(g) of the Act; and (2) on 23 May 2005 at Birmingham

Magistrates' Court was convicted of (i) keeping or knowingly permitting the keeping of controlled waste without holding a waste management licence contrary to Section 33(1)(B)(i) & (6) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; (ii) failing to take all such measures available applicable to him in that capacity as were reasonable to prevent contravention by any other person, contrary to Section 34(1)(A) and (6) of the Act.

2. Following an inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Gordon Trefor Cannell** (registration number 62697), the committee decided to take no further action.
3. Following an inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society, the committee resolved to reprimand **Lindsay Wilson** (registration number 83018). The committee found proved allegations that Miss Wilson had

failed to comply with Key Responsibilities 1 to 3 of the Code of Ethics and Standards.

4. Following an inquiry, the committee resolved to reprimand **Kenneth Sanderson Brown** (registration number 1058800), who on 22 July 2004 was convicted at Hamilton Sheriff Court of driving a motor vehicle while unfit to drive through alcohol, contrary to Section 5(1)(A) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

David Gomez
Secretary to the Statutory Committee

HPG election 2007

Voting papers for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's 2007 Hospital Pharmacists Group election have now been posted to members of the group. After completion, the papers should be returned to Robert Clayton, Room 102, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN.

The business reply envelope sent to members living in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is marked "second class". Overseas members are asked to affix a stamp to the envelope. Members are asked to post their voting papers as early as possible. The closing date for receipt of voting papers is Friday 18 May 2007 (noon).

For enquiries in connection with this election please contact HPG administrative support (tel 020 7572 2407).

Robert Clayton
Secretary, Hospital Pharmacists Group

IPG election 2007

Voting papers for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's 2007 Industrial Pharmacists Group election have now been posted to members of the group. After completion, the papers should be returned to Sadia Khan, Room 102, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN.

The business reply envelope sent to members living in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is marked "second class" and members are asked to post their voting papers as early as possible. The closing date for receipt of voting papers is 12 May (noon).

For enquiries in connection with this election please contact IPG administrative support (tel 020 7572 2412).

Sadia Khan
Secretary, Industrial Pharmacists Group

DEATHS

Gisborne Recently, Keith Gisborne, FRPharmS, aged 91, of 20 Ashtree Croft, Willaston, Neston CH64 2UJ. Mr Gisborne registered in 1942. He was former principal pharmacist at Clatterbridge Hospital, Wirral, retiring in 1981 after 41 years in the hospital service. (Tribute p537.)

Wood On 22 April, Robert Anderson Wood, FRPharmS, aged 71, of The Gables, 6 Hallowhill, St Andrews, Fife KY16 8SF. Mr Wood registered in 1957. A former head of large stores for Boots The Chemists, he had been a member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Statutory Committee since 1995. (News item p533; tribute p537.)

Wycherley On 6 April, John Arthur Eric Wycherley, MRPharmS, aged 95, of 29 Almond Grove, Worksop, Nottinghamshire S80 1AU. Mr Wycherley registered in 1938.

TRIBUTES

Clapinski In a tribute to the late Wieslaw Gareth Clapinski (PJ, 28 April, p509), SEAN WOODWARD (North Staffordshire local pharmaceutical committee and vice-chairman of the National Pharmacy Association) writes: Gaz Clapinski was a good friend who guided me through some challenging times in the early years of owning my own pharmacy. He used to say, "Ring me at any time", and I knew he really meant any time.

What Gaz did not know about running one's own pharmacy was probably not worth knowing. Fortunately for me — and for a number of other young pharmacists — Gaz was readily forthcoming with advice and support. My one regret is probably not thanking him enough for his strong shoulder and sound advice.

Gaz was a larger-than-life kind of guy and the pharmacy contractors in North Staffordshire were lucky contractors. The success of the North Staffordshire LPC under Gaz's secretarial guidance was largely due to his energy and enthusiasm and his clear vision of where community pharmacy should sit within the primary care team.

We were right on the cutting edge of pharmacy services and emergency call-outs. Smoking cessation, into which Gaz put a huge effort — always trying to quit himself — and projects such as domiciliary visits by pharmacists

have been services in North Staffordshire ever since.

All these ideas were possible because of the relationships that Gaz helped to build with the then health authority, primary care groups and trusts. The personnel in these organisations had the utmost respect for Gaz because of his knowledge and professionalism. Above all, they knew he was passionate about the contribution that community pharmacists could make to health care. This contribution is now being recognised in all corners of primary care, and I think Gaz was proud to have been involved in making it happen.

From the early 1980s, Gaz was an active member of the North Staffordshire branch of the Pharmaceutical Society. He held the post of chairman from 1982 to 1984 and was public relations officer for many years. He was also secretary of the highly successful British Pharmaceutical Conference held at Keele University in 1989.

Gaz joined the LPC in 1986 and became secretary in 1995. I had the great pleasure of working with him from 1991 to 2001, when he sold his pharmacy. In 1992, he was also elected onto the NPA board and served as its chairman for 1998–99. For six years he represented the NPA on the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and made sure that the voice of the little independent community pharmacist was heard loud and clear at this national level.

I used to wonder where Gaz found the time to do all this and still run a successful pharmacy. I recall when he first gave me a lecture on the subject of customer services and the importance of employing well-trained and pleasant staff. This message is as important and relevant today as it was then.

Gaz always gave 100 per cent to everything he did for pharmacy, but he gave even more to his customers, which is why he was always a special and highly regarded community pharmacist. He was great at making people feel at ease and his down-to-earth attitude made it easy to be his friends. Our many interesting debates on pharmacy often spilled over into the bar of the local pub.

He was an extraordinary person who will be sadly missed by everyone whose lives he touched.

Gaz leaves behind his wife Halina, daughters Lydia and Amanda and grandchildren "JJ" and Nyah.

JOHN D'ARCY, chief executive officer, National Pharmacy Association, writes: I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the death of Gaz Clapinski. I worked with Gaz in his capacity as NPA member, NPA board member and then NPA chairman. Gaz was one of those guys — regrettably all too rare in pharmacy — who you would describe as "larger than life".

Having started his career with Merck Sharp & Dohme, Gaz "took the plunge", as he put it, and bought his own pharmacy in Burslem in 1980. He was a well liked and respected pharmacist, dedicated to improving the health and well-being of his local community.

He extended his professional activities beyond the pharmacy and was an active and effective participant in local pharmacy politics at local pharmaceutical committee and Royal Pharmaceutical Society branch level. In addition, he made a significant contribution to the NPA as a member of its board of management between 1992 and 2001.

The highlight of this was his year as chairman in 1998–99. Gaz took over as chairman not long after Labour returned to power and was at the NPA helm just after the launch of the NHS plan, "The new NHS: modern dependable". Gaz played a key role in steering the NPA through the process of getting recognition for pharmacy into wider government policy setting. As part of this Gaz addressed the then Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, at the NPA's triennial dinner and in a hard-hitting speech made clear to the Department of Health the shortcomings of not making full use of the skills of community pharmacy in health policy and planning.

Gaz always worked hard and played even harder. He always struck me as a man who treated life with the appropriate degree of balance. He is the only man I have known who listed real ale among his interests and even held his 50th birthday party in a brewery (the invitation opened with "They said it couldn't be done")!

He was also a dedicated family man who put his family above all else.

Gaz was an intelligent and articulate man who had a passion for life and for pharmacy. He was a man of untiring energy who gave 100 per cent to everything

he did and who was always there when it mattered. I am proud to have worked on a professional level with Gaz but also to have had the privilege to get to know him on a social level. He always provided wise counsel, went about business in a robust and pragmatic manner and at all times retained a sense of humour.

Gaz's passing is a sad loss for pharmacy and our thoughts go out to Hal, Amanda and Lydia at this difficult time.

GRAHAM SOUTHALL-EDWARDS writes: It was with great sadness that I received a telephone call nearly two weeks ago informing me of the sudden, unexpected, tragic and untimely death of my friend and colleague Gaz Clapinski, aged only 57 years.

Gaz was born in Aberystwyth, Wales, on 1 December 1949, being the son of Polish parents; his first language was Polish, his second language was Welsh and he only learnt English after he started school. He was educated in Cardiganshire at the local comprehensive school and then at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology in Cardiff, where he graduated with a degree of bachelor of pharmacy, second class, first division, in 1971.

Gaz married his wife Halina on 26 August 1972 in Coventry, before registering with the Pharmaceutical Society in December the same year. His first employment was in industry with Merck Sharp & Dohme, but he soon moved to community pharmacy in Cambridge, as manager of one pharmacy in a group of two.

In 1978, Gaz moved to the George Staples Group in Stoke-on-Trent, where I already worked as manager of the Sneyd Green branch. I still well remember the day of his arrival, when he and his wife walked into my shop at Milton Road and through to the upstairs flat with their children Lydia and Amanda, the latter cradled in her mother's arms. The following day their Datsun refused to start and I eagerly assisted to get Gaz under way to the Shelton branch, where he had taken over as manager.

That was the start of a friendship between my wife Diana and I and Gaz and Hal, which has lasted through the intervening 30 years, despite our paths diverging significantly for some 20 years after 1981.

Gaz soon showed that he had real commercial ability as a community pharmacist by

developing the Shelton pharmacy and building valuable links with the local doctors, while extending the pharmacy's service to 365 days a year, with regular service until 10pm weekday evenings.

It was obvious that Gaz would one day need to find his own business and after three years, he telephoned me one day in 1981 to say he had bought a pharmacy just up the road from me in High Lane, Burslem. To help him set up, I sold him my first Saab Turbo, an investment that proved just as worthwhile as the business he had purchased, as it later saved the lives of his wife and daughters when their car was crushed between two heavy goods vehicles in a multiple accident on the M6 on a day when (thankfully) the old car would again not start.

Gaz told me he would work for 20 years in High Lane and then retire. This is exactly what he did, selling up in 2000. In the intervening years he was secretary of the North Staffordshire Local Pharmaceutical Committee, a National Pharmacy Association board member and NPA chairman at the end of the millennium. These achievements are well documented by other tribute writers.

Despite his busy life as a successful proprietor and the many other professional engagements and duties that he had, one thing very much impressed me and that was his demonstrable love of and devotion to his wife and children. Gaz was a real family man and the family never took second place. He was always there for them and was a tower of strength first to his immediate family and later to his extended family and grandchildren, as his children graduated into successful careers and grew into adults.

Gaz was a man who not only took care of his family, but also of all those around him who depended upon him and these naturally included his customers, who were always full of praise for the reliability of his caring services.

Retirement was of course not a realistic option for Gaz. He certainly made a decision to leave pharmacy when he sold his business and lately he had registered as a non-practising pharmacist, but he then turned to investment, improvement, letting and general dealing in property, with similar success to that which he had enjoyed in his pharmacy days.

In 1985, I taught Gaz and Hal to ski and we met many times on the slopes in the years that followed. The last time was at Obergurgl in 2004, when he infuriated me by turning-up with a pair of carving skis, on which he was able to cut the ice far better than I could on my old 205cm Renntigers, so much so that he almost left me behind. The next day I borrowed my son's "carvers" and turned up to try to take revenge, but Gaz proved that he had in fact become an accomplished and able skier, as we raced down the piste, neck and neck the whole day long.

I counted Gaz among three trusted lifetime friends and his death has been a great personal loss to me and I wish to express my deepest sympathy to Halina, Lydia and Amanda.

Gisborne In a tribute to the late Keith Gisborne (see p536), **JOHN RICHARDSON** writes: I first met Keith Gisborne when I came to work in Wirral Hospitals in 1973. Keith was a larger than life character who served as chief pharmacist and district pharmaceutical officer for the southern area of Wirral based at Clatterbridge Hospital.

Before coming to Clatterbridge, Keith trained and worked at Nottingham City General Hospital. He then moved to be chief pharmacist at Bury General Hospital before commencing duties at Clatterbridge General Hospital in 1954.

Keith served as contracts officer for the Mersey Regional Health Authority for a number of years. He was an active member of the then Guild of Hospital Pharmacists and served on the committee for the local branch before being chairman in 1984-85 and subsequently auditor.

At Clatterbridge Keith built up a happy and loyal staff and was also instrumental in building up a successful general manufacturing section.

His many interests included caravanning. He had a static caravan in Anglesey, which he regularly visited but would also let to staff and friends. He enjoyed a round of golf and served his local church as sidesman. He also enjoyed playing the organ. Sadly, Keith lost his wife Freda some three years ago and only latterly suffered ill health himself.

To his sons David and Andrew and their families, we offer our sincere condolences.

Wood In a tribute to the late Robert Anderson Wood (see p536), **BRYAN KIRKWOOD** writes: My good fortune has been to know and admire Bob Wood for the 25 years since his return from the Boots operation in Canada. In the 1980s we served on the standing committee of the Pharmaceutical General Council (Scotland), of which he was vice-chairman at the time he left to head the Boots "large stores" operation in Nottingham. He was impressively informed about the elements of prescription pricing and the overall financing concerns of pharmacy contractors in Scotland. He would marshal the facts expertly, crunch the numbers incisively and present his conclusions with clarity and authority.

In the mid-1990s he was appointed to the Pharmaceutical Society's Statutory Committee, on which we served together for 10 years. His contributions to the inquiries were characterised by relevance, insight, mature judgements and courtesy. Both in and out of the committee his colleagues enjoyed the rich mix of his warm company, his lively conversation and his good humour.

For me there was the added reward from countless journeys back to Fife by train and plane. With my early and extended experience in a "Boots family" plus my association with one of his predecessors, John Ross, we had common ground to explore — in the NHS, in the profession and our mutual friends and acquaintances, in his holidaying in Europe and the Americas, and in the fortunes of Scotland's rugby (he was an inveterate attender at Murrayfield). Our range was endless.

Importantly, there were events in recent times that I shall hold on to — a sunny July golfing morning at Balcomie Links by Crail, a warm and relaxing lunch at Balbirnie House last October, and a poem he composed and recited a couple of years back, which William McGonagall could not have improved upon.

It was my privilege during his last months of illness to try to respond adequately to the openness, dignity and courage of Bob and his wife Isobel. Her steadfast support and expertise has been immense. I rejoice in the friendship of them both. With sadness but equally with gratitude I extend to Isobel and the family my sincere sympathy, caring thoughts and prayers.

DIARY

Headquarters meetings

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

Wednesday 9 May

Meeting of Officers. 10.30am.
Resource Management
Committee. 1.30pm

Local meetings

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

Tuesday 8 May

East Kent Annual general meeting and "Use of sildenafil for pulmonary arterial hypertension" by Ghazwan Butrous. Pfizer, Sandwich. 7.30pm.

Hull "Splitting the activities of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society" by Richard Daniszewski (member of the Society's English Pharmacy Board). Basil Reckitt Centre, Reckitt Benckiser, Dansom Lane, Hull. Refreshments. 8pm.

West Surrey "Common skin complaints" by Dr Pinder (dermatology unit, Frimley Park Hospital). Park Room, Guildford College, Stoke Road, Guildford. Light buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 9 May

Barnet "Current issues" by Graham Phillips (member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council),

preceded by annual general meeting. Education and Information Centre, Barnet Hospital. Hot meal 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

Great Yarmouth and Waveney

"Statins: should they be in the water or should they be banned?" by Tony Page (consultant cardiologist, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital). Waveney House Hotel, Beccles. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Sheffield "Ophthalmology" by Paul Johnson (specialist nurse, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals), followed by annual general meeting. EEF Sheffield. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Thames Valley "Supervision requirements and current reality" by Lynsey Cleland (head of professional ethics, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). The Adelaide, 57 Park Road, Teddington. 7.15 for 7.45pm.

Thursday 10 May

Bolton "Electronic prescribing: what does it really mean?" by Steve Freeborn (former branch chairman and now head of pharmacy, Ascribe Plc). Education Centre, Royal Bolton Hospital, Farnworth. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Crawley, Horsham and Reigate

"Fraud: both sides of the prescription" by Amanda Hill (operational manager, Pharmaceutical Fraud Service). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Crawley Hospital, West Green, Crawley. Refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Weald of Kent "Development in chemotherapy" by Sharon Beesley (consultant oncologist, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust). Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Pembury. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8.15pm.

Monday 14 May

Cardiff and the Vale Annual general meeting, followed by "The White Paper, 'Trust assurance and safety: the regulation of health professional in the 21st century'" by Cath Savage (director for Wales, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Welsh Directorate, 2 Ash Tree Court, Woodsy Close, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Pontprennau, Cardiff. Buffet 7pm, AGM 7.30pm, talk 8.15pm.

Tuesday 15 May

Bradford "The English Pharmacy Board" by Richard Daniszewski (member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's English Pharmacy Board). Victoria Hotel, Bradford City Centre. 7.30 for 8pm.

Cheltenham and Gloucester Annual general meeting and "Pain management and medicine use reviews" by Jon Francis (consultant in palliative care). Sandford Education Centre, Cheltenham. Buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

Clwyd "Managing depression in primary care: a therapeutic update and medicine use review workshop". Rossett Hall Hotel, Chester Road, Rossett, near Wrexham. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Harrow and Hillingdon "Allergies and rhinitis". Cumberland Hotel, Harrow. Light buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Oxfordshire Annual general meeting and "Stroke rehabilitation" by Alistair Buchan (consultant physician, John Radcliffe Hospital). George Pickering Postgraduate Centre, Level 3, John Radcliffe Hospital. Light refreshments 7.15pm, AGM 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Slough "Aspects of diabetes care" by Grace van der Pool (nurse consultant). Followed by annual general meeting. John Lister Postgraduate Centre, (Entrance 4) Wexham Park Hospital. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

South West Metropolitan Annual general meeting and "Travel medicines" by Lorna Cady (senior pharmacist, St Anne's Hospital). Phillip Constable Boardroom, St George's Hospital, London. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 16 May

Ipswich and Suffolk Annual general meeting and "Management and treatment of incontinence" by Robert Brierly (consultant urologist, Ipswich Hospital). Windmill Room, Holiday Inn, Ipswich. Refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Friday 18 May

Clwyd Guided tour of gardens, Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop, followed by light refreshment. 7.15pm.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society and British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Lecture: "Electricity and the enlightenment"

- **Date and time:** Wednesday 9 May at 6.30pm, preceded by refreshments from 5.30pm.
- **Venue:** Royal Pharmaceutical Society headquarters, London.
- **Speaker:** Nicholas Cambridge, research associate, the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London, and GP, Croydon.
- **Further information:** Free admission; non-members welcome.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Veterinary Pharmacists Group conference:
A bright future for veterinary pharmacy

- **Date and time:** Friday 8 June (conference dinner Thursday 7 June).
- **Venue:** Royal Pharmaceutical Society headquarters, London.
- **Content:** Topical issues include: the future of veterinary pharmacy and the role of veterinary pharmacists in 2020; new models of working between vets and pharmacists in the future; reclassification of veterinary medicines; and a debate on "pharmacists are an essential part of the future animal health teams".
- **Fees:** £210 (conference and dinner with accommodation), £110 (conference and dinner), £60 (conference only).
- **Further information and booking:** Lorraine Fearon, Veterinary Pharmacists Group Administrator, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2409; e-mail lorraine.fearon@rpsgb.org).

Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
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London headquarters

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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

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