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Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain

Society offers series of free training days for preregistration tutors

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is planning a series of free training days for preregistration tutors. And in preparation for the event, the preregistration division is conducting a survey this month to determine the level of interest among current and prospective tutors and to find out how much training has already been undertaken by existing tutors — particularly any specific training in workplace assessment skills.

The one-day pilot course will be offered in different centres throughout Britain during October. Places will be limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. The topics to be covered will include:

- Formative and summative assessment
- Interpreting and measuring competence against performance standards
- Identifying and documenting appropriate evidence
- Skills on giving feedback

A major reason for offering the course is that in the future the Society will be required to carry out quality assurance on preregistration training, under a provision of the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2006 (pharmacy's Section 60 Order under the Health Act 1999). The Society points out that taking part in the course will also give tutors an opportunity to develop and achieve a continuing professional development goal.

Survey forms were being sent this week to current preregistration tutors. Completed forms should be returned by 28 May to Preregistration Division, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN.

Pharmacists interested in becoming tutors can obtain copies of the form from the same

address or download a copy from the preregistration tutors' page on the "A career in pharmacy" section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/acareerinpharmacy). Completed survey forms can be e-mailed to preregistration@rpsgb.org.

The survey form can also be completed electronically by means of an online questionnaire available through the same page of the Society's website.

The preregistration division's initiative has been welcomed by other organisations involved in pharmacist training. The National Pharmacy Association's head of education and training, Liam Stapleton, said: "This survey, and the information it will provide on tutors, will be a help to the Society and an asset to the profession. It is an important part of the wider picture of ensuring that pharmacists are properly prepared for a career as a modern health care professional."

Rachel Stretch, preregistration training manager, London Pharmacy Education and Training, would like to see a good response to the survey. She said: "I welcome this initiative to offer tutors greater support to assess the performance of preregistration trainees in the workplace. I feel it will be invaluable for tutors to receive training in the area of workplace assessment as it can be difficult to assess a trainee's performance and level of competence, especially in the NHS where assessment of written evidence plays a bigger role than direct tutor observation. Achieving consistency of assessment between tutors is also important.

"I encourage tutors to have their say in this area by completing the survey that the Society is conducting so that any training offered in the future can be tailored to meet the needs of those conducting the assessments".

This week

■ Tutor training days

The Society is planning a series of free training days for preregistration tutors and is conducting a survey to determine the level of interest (p565).

■ AGM financial questions

The Society has extended its deadline for the submission of financial questions for answer at the annual general meeting (p565).

■ Long service certificates

Eight pharmacists have been awarded certificates recognising long service on branch committees (p566).

Library catalogue to be upgraded this month

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's online library catalogue (olib.rpsgb.org.uk) is to undergo an upgrade allowing it to introduce advanced features.

The upgrade will also allow the catalogue to be viewed correctly by users of the Firefox browser, who currently have intermittent problems searching within the catalogue.

The upgrade will be implemented on 23 and 24 May, when the service will be unavailable either for catalogue searches or for logging on to reserve books or renew loans. Members wishing to locate, reserve or renew items on either of those dates should contact the library by telephone (020 7572 2300) or e-mail (library@rpsgb.org).

The library says that the catalogue's new features, to be rolled out over the coming year, are all designed to make using the catalogue more interesting and rewarding. "So while we apologise now in advance for any inconvenience this two-day interruption in service may cause, we know it will be worth it in the longer term."

Extended deadline for financial questions for annual general meeting

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has extended until 14 May the deadline for submitting questions on its finances for answer at the annual general meeting, which takes place at the Society's headquarters on 15 May (see Official Notice, p567).

The Society annually offers members the opportunity to submit questions about the

financial statements in advance of the AGM so that a complete answer can be provided at the meeting. The financial statements appear in the Society's annual review, which was distributed to members with last week's *Pharmaceutical Journal*.

Questions can be submitted in writing to Graham Duncan, Financial Controller, Royal

Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (e-mail accounts2006@rpsgb.org).

The Society cannot guarantee to provide a comprehensive answer at the AGM to any questions received after 14 May or raised only during the AGM. Any such questions will be answered individually after the meeting.

Branch committee members awarded certificates for long service

Eight members of Royal Pharmaceutical Society have recently been awarded certificates recognising long service within their branches.

The certificates, signed by the President, are awarded annually under a scheme introduced in 2001. Members must have served at least 15 years on a branch or regional committee to be nominated for a certificate by their committee.

Brian Midcalf has served on the committee of the Leeds branch since at least 1979 and is now in his second term of office as branch chairman after at least 16 years as branch secretary. As secretary he organised at least five meetings a year, as well as numerous social events and committee meetings. He is also the editor and main contributor to the branch's thrice yearly newsletter.

Brian Morgan, of Hartlepool, has been a committee member of the Teesside branch since 1986. He was vice-chairman from 1989 to 1991 and secretary from 1992 to 2001. He has also served on the Border region committee since 1992 and has been regional treasurer since 1997.

Vibeke Romose, of Towcester, was treasurer of the Northamptonshire branch continuously for 20 years until 2005. She also served as vice-chairman of the branch in 1989 and chairman in 1990. Over the years she was involved in organising many social events, including an annual car rally and annual Christmas quiz nights. When in



Keith Williams, of the Bolton branch, receives his long service certificate from branch chairman Helen McKnight

2003 the branch almost folded because of a lack of support, she was one of two branch officers who tried to bring it back to life, achieving success the following year when a special meeting determined that there was enough support to revive the branch, which has since continued to thrive.

John Timmins, of Rotherham, has been a committee member of the Sheffield branch since 1975. He served as chairman from 1981 to 1983 and careers officer from 1984 to 1997

and has also been vice-chairman on several occasions.

David Thomas, of Feltham, Middlesex, was elected to the committee of the Thames Valley branch in 1977 after he had begun running a community pharmacy in Teddington. He was appointed careers officer in 1979, vice-chairman in 1980 and chairman in 1981. For many years he was auditor. Except for a two-year period when the branch was inactive, he has continued to serve on the committee.

Patricia Thompson, of Reigate, has served on the committee of the Crawley, Horsham and Reigate branch since 1986. She was branch chairman for 1988-89 and has been treasurer since 1998. She has been responsible for organising many of the branch's meetings.

Peter Tovell has served on the committee of the Bolton branch continuously since joining the branch in 1991. He was chairman-elect for 1991-92, chairman for 1992-93, vice-chairman for 1993-94 and secretary from 1993 to 1996.

Keith Williams has been involved with the Bolton branch since moving to the area from the south of England in the late 1980s. As branch secretary for many years he has managed branch affairs and organised events such as an annual professional dinner and a pre-registration trainees' supper, as well as the annual calendar of branch meetings. He has also been involved with a sponsored walk in aid of a local hospice every two years.

Revision aid for clinical pharmacy published

A revision aid for pharmacists and others facing assessment of their knowledge of clinical pharmacy has been published by the Pharmaceutical Press (an imprint of RPS Publishing, the publishing organisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society).

The book is aimed at those preparing for a multiple choice question (MCQ) examination. The sample questions are practice-oriented and intended to assess students' knowledge of clinical issues, their evaluative and analytical skills and their ability to apply their knowledge in clinical practice.

Topics covered include therapeutics and rational drug use, the aetiology of disease states, the presentation of conditions, investigations and diagnostic testing, drug therapy (including adverse drug reactions), drug interactions, and contraindications. The questions are set out as four practice tests, each



consisting of 80 MCQs presented in a variety of formats.

The publisher describes the book as an indispensable aid for anyone preparing to sit a multiple choice question examination in pharmacy and for those carrying out a self-evaluation exercise for continuing professional development.

'MCQs in clinical pharmacy' is edited by Lilian Azzopardi, associate professor in the department of pharmacy at the University of Malta. Dr Azzopardi is also editor of 'MCQs in pharmacy practice', published in 2003, and 'Further MCQs in pharmacy practice', published in 2006.

The new 304-page paperback book costs £19.95. 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).

Diploma in veterinary pharmacy

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).

Law and ethics bulletin

Child-resistant packaging

Pharmacists are reminded that reclosable child-resistant packaging must be treated as a complete system. If an item is not dispensed in the manufacturer's original pack the pharmacist should ensure that the closure is suitable for use with the container body and that the reclosable child-resistant packaging has been tested and complies with the relevant British Standard.

Pharmacists should also take steps to satisfy themselves that any child-resistant closures purchased have been tested for child resistance according to the British Standard, and that they only

use the specific container bodies tested with the closures.

If an item is not dispensed in the manufacturer's original pack, child-resistant packaging appropriate for the medicine being supplied should be used.

Further information The Society's Code of Ethics (www.rpsgb.org.uk/pdfs/coe060524.pdf) outlines the professional requirements for the use of child-resistant packaging. The code requires that all solid dose and all oral and external liquid preparations must be dispensed in reclosable child resistant containers unless one of the five exemptions applies. See 'Medicines,

ethics and practice: a guide for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians' (30th edition, July 2006).

The Medicines (Child Safety) Regulations 2003 (www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20032317.htm) set out legal requirements relating to the packaging of medicinal products consisting of or containing aspirin, paracetamol or more than 24mg of elemental iron.

Further information about suppliers of child-resistant containers and closures is available through the technical information services page in the advisory services section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/informationresources) or by contacting the Practice Division (e-mail practice@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).

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, *PJ*, 5 May, p535): "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

before the annual general meeting: 5.30pm, tea and sandwiches available for those attending the annual general meeting; 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.

Disciplinary Committee meeting

On Monday 14 May 2007 the Disciplinary Committee will hear an application for restoration to the Register on behalf of **Samina Sheikh** (former registration number 82995).

Fitness to Practise Committee Secretariat

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, including: 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, Administrator, Veterinary Pharmacists Group, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2409; e-mail lorraine.fearon@rpsgb.org).

Royal Pharmaceutical Society

One-day conference: Pharmacists as prescribers — the UK experience

- **Date and time:** Monday 11 June, 11am to 4.30pm.
- **Venue:** Sheraton Hotel, Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- **Content:** An introduction to the experience of pharmacist prescribing in the UK.
- **Delegates** Representatives of pharmacy organisations, competent authorities and government health departments in Europe.
- **Fees:** €295 (including lunch, refreshments, course documentation and VAT).
- **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). Conference brochure, including registration form, also available from "Events and meetings" page of Society's website (www.rpsgb.org).

DIARY

Headquarters meetings

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

Monday 14 May

Disciplinary Committee. 9.30am.

Wednesday 16 May

Annual general meeting. 7.30pm.

Thursday 17 May

Branch representatives' meeting. 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 14 May

Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Annual general meeting, followed by "The White Paper" by Cath Savage (director, Welsh Directorate, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Welsh Directorate, 2 Ash Tree Court, Woody Close, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Pontprennau, Cardiff. Buffet. 8.15pm.

Tuesday 15 May

Bradford "The English Pharmacy Board" by Richard Danezieswski (board member). Victoria Hotel, Bradford. 7.30 for 8pm.
Cheltenham and Gloucester Annual general meeting and "Pain management and medicines 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 medicines use review workshop". Rossett Hall Hotel, Chester Road, Rossett, near Wrexham. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Dudley and Stourbridge "The work of the Warehouse: Dudley Drug Rehabilitation Service" by Anna Taylor (The Warehouse). Clinical Education Centre, Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley. 7.45 for 8pm

Gwent Annual general meeting followed by "Looking to the future of the profession" by Michele Savage (Pharmacy 2020 project manager, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). The Hill Conference Centre, Abergavenny. AGM 6.30pm, dinner (booking essential), tea and coffee. Meeting 7.30pm.

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

Oxfordshire Annual general meeting followed by "Stroke rehabilitation" by Alistair Buchan (consultant physician, John Radcliffe Hospital). George Pickering Postgraduate Centre, Level 3, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington. 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 Brierley (consultant urologist, Ipswich Hospital). Holiday Inn, Ipswich. Refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

South East Metropolitan "Things dermatological: scalp and skin and viral things" by Amy Winsor (dermatology nurse practitioner,

University Hospital Lewisham). Clarendon Hotel, London. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Friday 18 May

Clwyd Guided tour of gardens, Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop. 7.15pm. Light refreshments served after the tour.

Monday 21 May

Bromley "Aspects of patient testing" by Stuart Gill-Banham (clinical skills laboratory, Medway School of Pharmacy). Anson Building, former Naval College, Chatham ([map at w3.gre.ac.uk/about/estates/maps](http://map.at.w3.gre.ac.uk/about/estates/maps)). Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

East Kent Guided tour, beer tasting and meal. Shepherd Neame, Faversham. 7.30pm. (Advance booking only, through Judith East, tel 01303 264423.)

Hull Pharmaceutical calculations training workshop for preregistrations trainees, led by Mel Smith. Hull Mental Health Teaching Trust, Willerby Hill, Willerby, Hull. 1 to 4pm.

Liverpool Annual general meeting followed by "Current practice in contraception and sexual health: including emergency contraception" by Paula Briggs (specialist in sexual health, May Logan Centre, Liverpool).

Postgraduate Education Centre, Alder Hey Hospital. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Tuesday 22 May

Central Lancashire "Practice-based commissioning" by Liz Stafford. Foster Building, University of Central Lancashire. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Chelmsford "Chlamydia screening programme" by Richard Gill (sexual health lead, Mid Essex Primary Care Trust) followed by annual general meeting. Masons Too, London Road, Chelmsford. Refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Croydon "Non-medical prescribing rheumatology: focus on pain control" by Bola Sotubo (pharmacist supplementary prescriber) and Natalie Harwood (rheumatology consultant). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Mayday Hospital. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 23 May

Doncaster "Continuing professional development" by Diana Taylor (Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education tutor, Doncaster, Wakefield and Barnsley, and community pharmacy clinical governance facilitator, Doncaster Primary Care Trust), followed by annual general meeting. Best Western Mount Pleasant Hotel. 7 for 7.15 pm.

Glasgow and West of Scotland "Playing God? The ups and downs of balancing unlimited demand and limited resources" by Alan Rodger (medical director, Beatson Oncology Centre). SIBS 101, University of Strathclyde. 7.30 for 8pm.

West Metropolitan "Current issues facing the profession" by Douglas Simpson (member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council). Cockburn Lecture Theatre, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Building, St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. Buffet 7pm, meeting 8.10pm.

Thursday 24 May

Harrogate Walking quiz around Harrogate. Meet at Wetherspoons (Parliament Street entrance). 7.30pm.

Birmingham "Medication errors" by Robin Ferner, (director, West Midlands Centre for Adverse Drug Reactions). Birmingham Medical Institute, 36 Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

Saturday 26 May

Clwyd Branch dinner. Quay Hotel, Deganwy. 7pm.



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