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Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain

Scottish annual meeting speakers stress need for strong leadership

Speakers at the 2007 annual meeting of members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in Scotland emphasised the need for strong professional leadership as the changes set out in the White Paper on the regulation of health professionals are implemented.

The first speaker at the meeting, held at the Society's Scottish Office in Edinburgh on 12 June, was the President of the Society, Hemant Patel, who outlined the background to the separation of the Society's regulatory and professional roles and the formation of a General Pharmaceutical Council and a "body akin to a royal college".

Mr Patel summarised the Society's actions so far and stressed the need to involve every member of the profession and key stakeholders in the changes. He understood that some members would be unaware, confused or disillusioned but emphasised that the future of the professional body depended on the views of its members. Indeed, he welcomed a fierce debate on the professional role, stressing that it should focus on aims and functions rather than name and structure.

The President added that the Society was to work with a research agency in the near future to gauge members' views. A group led by an independent chairman would be set up to review evidence on behalf of the Council.

The second speaker was Bill Scott, chief pharmaceutical officer for Scotland. Sharing some thoughts on leadership and the future professional body, he said that the profession needs strong, focused leadership more now than ever. Leaders need to be "realistic visionaries" who can develop strategies for the next 20 years.

Mr Scott said that professional leadership at the Society needs to be changed to ensure that the profession is fit for the future and that the professional body supports pharmacists giving care to patients. He suggested that, although they have a unique role in modern health care, pharmacists are still not maximising the use of their skills. That was why the need for strong leadership, role models and professional networks is greater than ever.

He added that, as well as examining its professional role, the Society should carry out an in-depth review of its branches in terms of aims, functions and activities.

The final speaker was Peter Noyce, professor of pharmacy practice at the

University of Manchester and a professional adviser to the Carter working party on the future regulation of pharmacy. He observed that leaders in pharmacy are generally reluctant to grasp major issues and stressed that now is not a time for inactivity and inertia.

Professor Noyce added that academia has an equally important need for leadership in supporting, networking and liaising with a professional body, irrespective of the area of practice. He commented that the profession's leaders need to consider and represent all the different working patterns and groups within the profession. In particular, he saw a need to engage with young pharmacists and to give proper attention to those taking career breaks and older members of the profession. Summing up, he stated that the fate of the profession was in its own hands.

Before the addresses by the guest speakers, the chairman of the Scottish Pharmacy Board, Rose Marie Parr, opened the meeting by providing an overview of the past year, which she termed a year of transition and change. Apart from the dissolution of the Society's Scottish Executive and the formation of the board, the year had seen the Society in Scotland engaged in communicating with members, in partnership working, in parliamentary lobbying within a transformed political environment and in responding to consultation.

Dr Parr also launched the board's annual review for 2006–07, copies of which have been distributed to pharmacists in Scotland. [Copies can also be obtained from the Scottish Office (tel 0131 556 4386) or the Scottish Directorate website (www.rpsgb.org/Scotland).]

A report was also presented by David Thomson, who reviewed his second year as the Council member representing Scotland. He underlined his commitment to provide a Scottish voice at Council level during a period of unparalleled opportunity for change for the Society and the profession. He also stressed the need for a strong Scottish representation to influence the agenda and, in particular, to promote the Scottish perspective.

The President congratulated Scotland on the establishment of the Scottish Pharmacy Board, which he said had an important role in developing and shaping the professional agenda and exploiting the opportunities afforded to Scotland in leading practice development.

This week

■ Scottish meetings

Speakers at the annual meeting for members in Scotland called for strong leadership (p749); Scottish Pharmacy Board meeting (p750).

■ Law and Ethics Bulletin

Two Law and Ethics Bulletin pieces explain the powers of the Society's new disciplinary committees (p751) and the law relating to offers of gifts and inducements (p752).

President asks what the members want

The President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Hemant Patel, is asking members to tell the Society what they want from a future professional body for pharmacy.

In a letter posted on the Society's website, the President says that, in discussions on the White Paper on regulation of health care professionals, a lot has so far been heard from Government representatives about what a future professional body for pharmacy might look like. But what the Council needs to know is what the members want.

He continues: "If there is to be a new body for pharmacy then the membership must be at the forefront of the process to ensure that any new arrangements bring stronger professional leadership for pharmacists."

The letter says that the Council is to commission research to help identify members' needs, wants and expectations. An independent research company will carry out work over 12 weeks, seeking the views of a random sample of pharmacists and others. The data will help inform the development of business models for a future professional body.

It adds that a group led by an independent chairman would consider options for a future professional body, engaging with members and key stakeholder groups. This activity would be essential in establishing collaborative thinking and a cohesive approach to the professional body. The findings of the member research project would also feed into this process and a full report on this research would be prepared for the Council in the autumn.

The Council would undertake a formal consultation with members on the future professional body at a later stage.

The President's letter can be accessed through the "Regulation White Paper" link on the website's home page (www.rpsgb.org).

Scottish board confirms its intention to play a full part in developments arising from the White Paper

The Scottish Pharmacy Board of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has confirmed its intention to engage fully with developments surrounding the White Paper on the regulation of health professionals. At its third meeting, held in Edinburgh on 13 June, the board also confirmed that it would continue to urge all members in Scotland to become involved in the issue because of its importance to the profession.

The board reaffirmed its intentions after receiving an update from the Society's Secretary and Registrar, Ann Lewis. She announced that the Department of Health had established seven working groups to progress different aspects of the White Paper's proposals and that the Society would be involved in, and contribute to, the work of a number of the groups. An extensive consultation with Society members would determine what they wanted from a future professional body.

Other main areas on which the board focused included engaging with members through the branches and continuing to communicate the pharmacy message to the Scottish political community.

Branch network The board asked its communications working group to look at ways in which the board could engage more productively with members through the branch network. It also agreed to hold a joint meeting with branch secretaries later in the year.

The decision followed a report on the Scottish branch secretaries' meeting held the previous day (see below). It was explained that the branch secretaries would welcome advice and support on how to move forward within the new structure.

Roadshows With one Scottish Pharmacy Board roadshow still to go, the board agreed that the initiative had been a great success. The attendance figures were encouraging and the issues raised had been relevant to the board's activities and the challenges facing the profession.

Attendance at annual meeting The Scottish Pharmacy Board has asked its communications working group to consider suggestions for increasing attendance at the annual meeting of Scottish members.

Discussing the annual meeting held on the previous day (see p749), the board took the view that the guest speakers had made interesting and thought-provoking contributions that could have benefited many more participants. Discussing ways to increase the attendance,



particularly among younger members, board members made a number of suggestions, including surveying members' views on the content and timing of the meeting and using technology to communicate details of the meeting. The working group was asked to consider those and other suggestions.

Conference working group The board agreed to set up a working group to consider the options for hosting a conference in Scotland. It was agreed that a conference would be an ideal opportunity to engage with all sectors of the pharmacy profession, would raise the profile of pharmacy in Scotland and would provide a platform for further engagement with the political community.

Political contacts The board agreed to continue its political contact programme with the new Scottish Executive ministers and individual members of the Scottish Parliament. Board members also agreed that it would be useful to widen the programme to include Scottish members of Parliament at Westminster.

Long-term conditions and pharmacy The board decided that the Society in Scotland needed its own strategy on long-term conditions and asked the Society's lead pharmacist for long-term conditions and public health, Paul Gimson, to work with it on developing such a strategy.

The decision followed an update presentation from Mr Gimson (by videoconferencing) and a discussion on how to progress the Society's strategy in Scotland. Although appreciative of Mr Gimson's work, the board took the view that a separate strategy for Scotland would be more appropriate, particularly as the fine detail of the emerging chronic medication service was as yet unknown. The board indicated that it was happy to work with Mr Gimson and invited him to attend a board meeting later in the year.

"Agenda for change" The board agreed to keep a watch on the workforce implications of the "Agenda for change" process. Although it had no remit to discuss remuneration, the board had a remit to consider matters that might affect patient care and delivery of services. If the process began to have such an effect, the board could use its unique position to influence by discussing key concerns with the political community.

Scottish branch secretaries call for an improved local branch network

A meeting of Royal Pharmaceutical Society branch secretaries in Scotland has called for the development of the branch network to meet members' changing needs and to allow the branches to help the Scottish Pharmacy Board in its aim of delivering strong professional leadership and effective support for pharmacists.

Meeting at the Society's Scottish Office on 12 June, the branch secretaries recognised the need to modernise the network and asked the board to provide guidance on its modern role and to put forward proposals for a future structure.

Board chairman Rose Marie Parr told the meeting that the board saw the potential

for making use of the branch network but recognised a need to address challenges in the current model. These included declining attendance at branch meetings and poor engagement with the next generation of professionals. She emphasised the need to consider a different structure with flexible ways of working at a local level that took advantage of, for example, electronic methods of communication.

Commenting after the meeting, Dr Parr said: "We have to acknowledge that, just as we needed a devolved structure within the Society that was fit for purpose, we now need a local network that is also fit for purpose and meets the needs of our members. While some

branches thrive, others are struggling. We need to assess what we as a board can do to reinvigorate local connections, engage more effectively with the next generation of pharmacists and have a structure in place that enables effective two-way communication."

She added that she shared the branch secretaries' concerns about the effectiveness of the present branch structure. She would feed their views back to the board and look to produce guidance and proposals for the board and branches to discuss together. "This is an opportunity for a fresh approach," she said, "and the board will work in partnership with the branches for an outcome best suited to meet the challenges ahead."

President attends medical aid charity dinner given by Prince of Wales at Clarence House

Hemant Patel, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, was among the guests at a recent dinner given by the Prince of Wales for leaders in the UK pharmaceutical world.

The event took place at Clarence House on 11 June, hosted by the prince as patron of International Health Partners, a recently formed charity dedicated to providing medical aid to communities in the developing world.

IHP acts as a distribution channel for donated, quality, in-date products. It provides a bridge between drug, vaccine and medical suppliers and individuals and organisations working in the developing world. Working within World Health Organization guidelines, it only sends medicines that are specifically needed and requested.

Thanking guests for their support, the prince said that IHP would be nowhere without the backing of the health care industry.



Mr Patel, left, in conversation with the Prince of Wales at a reception before the dinner

In a letter to Mr Patel after the dinner, the charity's president, Anthony Dunnett, said that he particularly wanted to work more closely with the pharmacist community in future. He believed that pharmacists would be crucial to the success of a maternal and infant pack programme launched by IHP during the dinner.

Society relaunches its analytical validation course

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society, in partnership with the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, is relaunching its residential course on international analytical validation and regulatory issues for the pharmaceutical industry.

It is also offering a special "early bird" fee for registrations received before 1 July.

The updated two-and-a-half day course will be held at the Hilton Hotel, York, from 1 to 3 October with standard fees of £1,420 for Society and APS members and £1,490 for others. A reduced fee of £1,395 will apply to all registrations received by the end of this month.

The course is aimed at quality assurance managers, registration personnel, analytical and bioanalytical professionals and those who are responsible for validated systems. Based on interactive tutorials and syndicated workshops, the course will focus will be on problem-solving strategies. Delegates will be guided by a panel of experts led by Tony Fell, professor of pharmaceutical chemistry at the University of Bradford.

The course includes a social programme offering networking opportunities through a welcome reception and a course dinner.

Further information about the course appears in a Panel on p753.

Law and ethics bulletin

The Society's new powers under the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2007 in relation to health cases

On 30 March 2007, three new statutory committees (Investigating, Disciplinary and Health) were established under the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2007 (the "2007 Order").

The procedures under which the committees operate are set out in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (Fitness to Practise and Disqualification etc) Rules 2007.

The committees are now in a position to consider and make appropriate orders, including in circumstances where a pharmacist's fitness to practise is impaired by reason of adverse physical or mental health.

Historically, and under the 2007 Order, one of the main objectives of the Society is to protect and ensure the safety of the public. If a pharmacist's fitness to practise is in doubt the Society has an obligation to investigate such concerns.

Under the 2007 Order, the Society may act if there are current concerns about a pharmacist's fitness to practise by reason of adverse physical or mental health. The new powers in health cases are not intended to be punitive but are to protect the public and where appropriate to facilitate the rehabilitation of the individual.

The 2007 Order allows for interim orders to be applied in serious cases. An interim order may place interim conditions

on a practitioner's registration, or an interim suspension of the practitioner's name from the register. Under the 2007 Order there are three grounds on which an interim order may be imposed. These are that the order must be necessary for the protection of the public, otherwise in the public interest or in the interests of the practitioner. The power to impose interim orders is vested in both the Disciplinary Committee and the Health Committee.

In order to protect the public, pharmacists are reminded that under Part A.1(m) of the Code of Ethics, they must report to the Society if they believe that they, or another pharmacist, may not be fit to practise for health related reasons. The new Code of Ethics, which comes into force on 1 August 2007, contains a similar provision. It states that pharmacists and registered pharmacy technicians must "raise concerns if policies, systems, working conditions, or the actions, professional performance or health of others may compromise patient care or public safety. Take appropriate action if something goes wrong or if others report concerns to you".

Support is available to pharmacists via the Listening Friends Scheme (tel 020 7572 2442), the Benevolent Fund (tel 01327 264739) and the Pharmacists' Health Support Programme (tel 01327 264531). Further information about these services can be found within the "About the Society" pages of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/societyfunctions).

Additional information on the new Health Committee can be found at www.rpsgb.org/protectingthepublic.

Society publishes new MHRA guide for pharmaceutical wholesalers

A new guide for pharmaceutical wholesalers, compiled by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, is now available from the Pharmaceutical Press (the book publishing imprint of the RPS Publishing arm of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society).

'Rules and guidance for pharmaceutical distributors' contains EU and UK guidelines on good wholesaling practice and information

on EU and UK legislation affecting distributors of medicines for human use in Europe.

The 96-page paperback guide reproduces the elements of the MHRA's "Orange guide" ('Rules and guidance for pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors') that are specific to wholesale supply and distribution of medicines for human use. The 2007 edition of the "Orange guide" has also been

published by the Pharmaceutical Press (*PJ*, 17 February, p201), after more than 35 years as a Stationery Office publication.

The new guide costs £19.95.

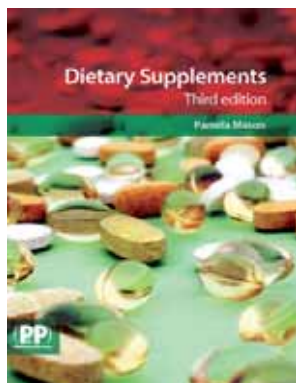
UK orders can be placed by telephone (01767 604 971), fax (01767 601 640) or e-mail (rps@turpin-distribution.com) or through the Pharmaceutical Press website (www.pharmpress.com).

New edition of 'Dietary supplements' from Pharmaceutical Press

A new edition of 'Dietary supplements', the third, is now available from the Pharmaceutical Press division of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's publishing organisation, RPS Publishing.

Written by Pamela Mason, an independent pharmaceutical consultant, the book provides a guide to commonly used vitamins and minerals and other dietary supplements. It has been produced as a reference source for pharmacists, dietitians, complementary and alternative medicine practitioners and other health professionals.

The book has been completely revised and updated. It gives information on uses, action, safety (adverse effects, pregnancy, interactions), efficacy and dosage, with particular emphasis on antioxidants, calcium, creatine, glucosamine, omega-3 fish oils, probiotics, selenium and vitamin D. The 82 monographs include new texts on methylsulfonyl-



methane, nickel, pycnogenol, phytosterols, psyllium, quercetin, resveratrol, silicon, tin and vanadium. The book also sets out the regulations relating to dietary supplements in the UK, Europe and the US. Appendices include a summary of interactions with conventional medicines

The 416-page hardback book costs £39.95. A single-user CD-ROM version is the same price with the addition of £6.99 VAT. A package containing book and CD-ROM costs £60 plus £5.25 VAT.

'Dietary supplements' is also available online via MedicinesComplete, the RPS Publishing online subscription service.

UK orders for the book can be placed by telephone (01767 604 971), fax (01767 601 640) or e-mail (rps@turpin-distribution.com) or through the Pharmaceutical Press website (www.pharmpress.com).

Law and ethics bulletin

Gifts and inducements

Pharmacists are advised that there are legal restrictions on the activities that pharmaceutical companies can undertake to promote medicines. These restrictions are set out in the Medicines (Advertising) Regulations 1994 as amended. There are also legal restrictions on what health professionals can ask for or accept.

A pharmacist who accepts inappropriate or expensive gifts may be considered to be in breach of the Medicines (Advertising) Regulations 1994. In addition, the Society's revised Code of Ethics, due to be implemented on 1 August 2007, states that pharmacists must not ask for or accept any gift, financial reward or inducement that may affect, or be perceived to affect, their professional judgement.

Pharmaceutical companies can only offer gifts which are inexpensive and relevant to the practice of medicine or pharmacy. Examples include stationery items (pens, Post-it notes, etc), relevant books or software and clinical items (peak flow meters or tissues). Items for personal benefit are prohibited.

Pharmaceutical companies can provide medical and educational goods and services that enhance patient care or benefit the NHS and maintain patient care as long as the arrangements are not an inducement to prescribe, supply, administer, recommend, buy or sell any medicine.

Companies holding or sponsoring scientific meetings may offer appropriate hospitality to health professionals. However, the hospitality offered must not be excessive and must be

limited to what is required to support the main purpose of the meeting and can only be provided for professional attenders. An example of inappropriate hospitality is where this is extended to a spouse or partner who does not qualify to attend in their own right. It should be the educational programme that attracts delegates, not the hospitality or venue.

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry sets out standards for all aspects of the promotion of medicines to health professionals for prescribing. The code also covers some non-promotional activities. The advertising and promotion of non-prescription medicines is regulated by the Proprietary Association of Great Britain through its Medicines Advertising Codes. The PAGB Consumer Code covers advertising and promotional activities aimed at the public while the PAGB Professional Code applies to advertising aimed at persons qualified to prescribe or supply, and administrative staff, where the objective of the advertising is to impact sales and/or recommendations to the public. All the self-regulatory codes reflect, and extend beyond, UK law, which is enforced by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

Queries, concerns or complaints should be raised directly with the appropriate industry self-regulatory body — the Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority (tel 020 7930 9677; website www.pmcpa.org.uk) or for over-the-counter medicines the PAGB (tel 020 7242 8331; e-mail info@pagb.co.uk). The legal requirements are enforced by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (020 7084 2000; website www.mhra.gsi.gov.uk).

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Communications to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society should be addressed, unless otherwise stated, to: The Secretary and Registrar, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7735 9141; fax 020 7735 7629). Official Notices also appear in the Notice-Board section of PJ Online (www.pjonline.com/notices).

Council by-election in Wales

A casual vacancy for the pharmacist place on the Council reserved to the national constituency of Wales exists, following a resignation from the Council. The Council has agreed that a by-election be held to fill that vacancy. Nominations for election to that vacancy should be received (by post, hand delivery or fax — not by e-mail) by the Head of Secretariat at the Society's headquarters, by noon on Friday 13 July 2007.

Eligibility A prospective candidate shall be eligible for election only if his or her name appears within Part 1 (practising) of the Society's Register of Pharmacists and he or she lives or works wholly or mainly in the national constituency of Wales.

A prospective candidate shall not be eligible if he or she has failed, by noon on Friday 13 July 2007, to pay any retention fee then due and payable by him or her to the Society.

Nominations Nominations for this vacancy must be signed by 10 pharmacist nominators whose addresses in the Register of Pharmacists are in Wales.

Nominees who accept 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 13 July 2007.

All nominations must be made on an official nomination form. To

obtain a nomination form and guidance papers, contact the Head of Secretariat (tel 020 7572 2204; e-mail averil.ridgway@rpsgb.org). The nomination forms and the guidance papers can also be downloaded from the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org) by following the "Wales by-election" link on the right of the home page.

A nomination may be withdrawn by notice in writing (not by e-mail) signed by the prospective candidate and delivered to the Head of Secretariat at the above address no later than noon on Friday 13 July 2007.

Term of office The term of office for the Council member elected to fill this casual vacancy will be until May 2008, ie, to the end of the current term of office of the retiring member. The Council member so elected will then be eligible to stand for election for a further two three-year terms of office.

Timetable The electoral roll will close at 5pm on 26 July 2007. Only those pharmacists whose registered address with the Society is in Wales at this time shall be entitled to vote in this election.

It is expected that voting papers will be posted to the electorate on Friday 3 August 2007. Completed voting forms must be returned by post to the Electoral Reform Services Ltd, PO Box 6352, London N1 1YR, to arrive not later than noon on Friday 31 August 2007.

The newly elected Council member will take office at 12.01am on 7 September 2007.

Ann Lewis
Secretary and Registrar

Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Academic Pharmacy Group and APS

Symposium: Pharmacy education

- **Date:** Monday 12 November 2007.
- **Venue:** Royal Pharmaceutical Society headquarters, London.
- **Title:** "Careering towards the future: Debating pharmacy education from undergraduate to . . . where?"
- **Organisers:** Royal Pharmaceutical Society in partnership with the Society's Academic Pharmacy Group and the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences.
- **Aim:** To provide an informative and stimulating broad view of developments in pharmacy education, with an opportunity to debate the educational and developmental implications of the White Paper on the regulation of health professionals and national discussions on the future direction of the profession.
- **Programme:** Topics will range from the impact of Higher Education Funding Council for England policy to educational involvement in pharmacy career development. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with and debate contentious issues, such as undergraduate student registration with a regular or the real impact of "e-learning". The symposium will conclude with an opportunity to question a panel of national leaders drawn from the pharmacy profession.
- **Further information:** Julie Churchill, Science Programme Manager, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2261; fax 020 7572 2506; e-mail julie.churchill@rpsgb.org).

DEATHS

Bailey On 10 May, Penelope Anne Bailey, MRPharmS, aged 62, of Chatteris, The Avenue, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2LP. Mrs Bailey registered in 1967.

Cheetham On 3 June, George Horace Cheetham, MRPharmS, aged 98, of 26 Kempnough Hall Road, Worsley, Manchester M28 2GN. Mr Cheetham registered in 1930.

Gabrielle On 4 May, Sophie Jane Gabrielle (née Turner), MRPharmS, aged 34, of The Mews, Home Farm Court, Deane Road, Stokeinteignhead, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 4QF. Mrs Gabrielle registered in 1998.

Hinshelwood In May, Florence Hinshelwood, MRPharmS, aged

95, of Retail Trust, Crookfur House, Crookfur Cottage Homes, Crookfur Road, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6JY. Miss Hinshelwood registered in 1934.

Jefferies On 15 April, Rodgers Featherstone Jefferies, MRPharmS, aged 74, of Valley View, Main Road, Lower Hartshay, Ripley, Derby DE5 3RP. Mr Jefferies registered in 1959.

McBean On 30 May, Evelyn McBean, MRPharmS, aged 70, of 463 Woodchurch Road, Prenton, Merseyside CH43 0SH. Mrs McBean registered in 1958.

Woodhouse On 8 June, John Bramley Woodhouse, MRPharmS, aged 83, of 80 The Esplanade, Fleetwood, Lancashire FY7 7BG. Mr Woodhouse registered in 1944.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society in partnership with Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Residential course: International analytical validation and regulatory issues for the pharmaceutical industry

- **Dates:** Monday 1 October (midday) to Wednesday 3 October (3.30pm).
- **Venue:** Hilton Hotel, York.
- **Content:** An overview and update on the principles of international validation for the analysis of medicinal substances and preparations, coupled with state-of-the-art assessment of validation protocols for regulatory submissions, with tutorials and syndicated workshops providing an environment for problem-solving in small group discussions with industrial and academic experts.
- **Participants:** The course is intended for quality assurance managers, registration personnel and analytical and bioanalytical professionals working in the pharmaceutical and biomedical industries and for managers and staff responsible for running validated systems in a regulated environment, including contract research organisations.
- **Fees:** £1,420 for members of the Society or APS and £1,490 for others. An early bird fee of £1,395 applies to those registering before 1 July. Fee includes two nights' accommodation, all meals and refreshments, a welcome reception and a resource pack with CD-ROM and full course documentation.
- **Further information:** Further information: Julie Churchill, Science Programme Manager, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London, SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2261; fax 020 7572 2506; e-mail science@rpsgb.org). Information is also available from the "Events and meetings page of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/worldofpharmacy).

TRIBUTES

Lawrie In a tribute to the late William King Lawrie (*PJ*, 9 June, p690), GERRY GREEN writes: May I presume to write on behalf of all members of staff of the R. Gordon Drummond pharmacy chain who knew Bill Lawrie during the years he worked for that company, to offer our condolences to his family at this sad time. I was chief executive officer and superintendent pharmacist of Drummonds from 1982 to 1985, when Bill retired.

I appointed him as professional services manager for our group, charged with the task of working with external consultants to establish computerised labelling and patient record systems for our group of pharmacies to which we later added branch financial accountability systems in order to report weekly sales, etc, via a computer link communicating with our head office.

In those early 1980s days this was pioneering work, but Bill managed to see the systems installed within a year of starting this work. He then ran the headquarters helpline, which talked through our branch staff as they adapted over the ensuing months to these new and somewhat revolutionary systems, a task he managed with great patience and cheerfulness.

It was very much through his efforts that we became the first multiple group to keep patient medication records, order from our wholesale supplier and report each week sales and purchases by branches to headquarters by computerised systems.

As your contributor Arnold Morton stated (*PJ*, 9 June, p690). Bill was indeed a gentleman and a great credit to his profession as a pharmacist in the eyes of everyone who had the pleasure to meet him. I will miss his cheery newsletter every Christmas with his Christmas card when December 2007 comes around.

PHILIP ROGERS writes: It was with great sadness that I learnt through *The Journal* of the passing of Bill Lawrie. I had the privilege of working with him during the mid-1980s when he was professional services manager for Drummonds. During what was the first part of my career in community pharmacy, Bill's professional wisdom and insight as a mentor were second to none. After his retirement in 1989 we kept in touch, and he always kept an interest as my career took me into academia. His friendly phone

calls, particularly around the Christmas season, will now be greatly missed. Pharmacy has lost a gentleman and true professional.

Lofthouse In a tribute to the late Charles Culverwell Lofthouse (*PJ*, 19 May, p593), KEITH STEAD writes: I was saddened to read of the death of Charles Lofthouse. I met Charles as a member of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy, and we soon found that we came from the same part of the country: the Fylde, Lancashire. He joined me as an honorary auditor of the BSHP about 10 years ago.

We both attended the annual conference in Wakefield less than three weeks before he died. He seemed his normal self apart from his delayed arrival because of a congested motorway drive from his home in Chatham.

Charles lived on his own and his career was in community pharmacy with no connection in business to the family firm. During the time that I have known him he acted as a community pharmacy locum gradually reducing his commitment to days or half days for a few favoured friends. He finally gave up in 2005 and joined the non-practising section of the Register.

From listening to him talking about his locum work he was obviously assiduous in carrying out his duties and responsibilities.

We shall very much miss his services as honorary auditor and as a firm friend in the BSHP.



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 technifo@rpsgb.org

Pharmacists' advisory service
Information on legal and ethical matters relating to pharmacy practice, 020 7572 2308; fax 020 7572 2510, e-mail ftp@rpsgb.org

Direct debit

Sign up to pay your Royal Pharmaceutical Society retention fee annually by direct debit in 2008 and onwards. It is quick and easy, you cannot forget to pay and you will therefore not face the risk of being erased from the register.

Direct debit is available to both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians but only for those on the practising registers.

You can download a direct debit mandate form from www.rpsgb.org/registrationandsupport/registration/paymenttoffees.html. The form should be returned to the registration division by 31 October.

Those without internet access can obtain copies of the mandate form by contacting the Registration Section, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2322; fax 020 7572; e-mail registration@rpsgb.org).

DIARY

Headquarters meetings

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

Tuesday 26 June
Hospital Pharmacists Group Committee. 10am.

Friday 29 June
Pharmaceutical Care Awards. 3pm.

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)

Wednesday 27 June
Bristol "Young people: do they need us?" (sexual health and contraception for teenagers and

young people) by Annie Evans (medical director, Brook Young People's Clinic, Bristol). BAWA Leisure Centre, Southmead Road, Filton. 7.30 for 8pm.

Halifax "Travel medicines" by Martin Brown (former head of regulatory and pharmaceutical services, Medical Advisory Services for Travellers Abroad, Leeds). Learning and Development Centre, Calderdale Royal Hospital. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Thursday 28 June
Hereford "Current affairs" by John Gentle (member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council). Kindle Centre, Asda Supermarket, Belmont Road, Hereford. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Thursday 5 July
Hertford "The future of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society" by Graham Phillips (member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council). Health Research Building, University of Hertfordshire (Hatfield Campus). Light refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

PERSONAL

This column is intended for announcements of births, engagements, marriages, anniversaries, etc. The charge for an insertion is £25 for up to 30 words, and £10 for every additional 10 or fewer words. Personal cheques only (payable to *The Pharmaceutical Journal*) should be sent with the notice to the Editor, *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN. The sender's address and membership number, if applicable, should be on the reverse of the cheque.

Births

Kanth Michael (Portsmouth 1996–99) and Ravi are pleased to announce the arrival of their son Ryan Roshan on 24 May 2007, a brother for Jeevan. With our best wishes.