

Hitting the ground running

If we had opened a book on who might be the new Secretary and Registrar (or rather Chief Executive and Registrar) of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society we would not have got close to picking the successful candidate since we were focusing on pharmacists. At one time, before Ann Lewis announced her retirement, small bets were being placed on the names of John D'Arcy (former head of the National Pharmacy Association) and Rob Darracott (formerly with the Society and now heading the

Coming to grips with what is happening to the Society will be his first task

Company Chemists' Association). However, they both effectively absented themselves from the race before the first heats and the field was open.

So it is refreshing to be able to announce that the new CE and Registrar, Jeremy Holmes, has no known track record in pharmacy politics, but has plenty of experience in strategic planning, the ways of Government and the pharmaceutical industry (p33). And, without doubt, he

has some challenging months and years ahead.

Coming to grips with what is happening to the Society will be his first task. He may well find browsing the documents prepared by Society staff for the Carter working party instructive. A brief summary of them can be found on p53 with directions on how to access the full documents on the Society's website at www.rpsgb.org. We would also encourage him to read *The Journal* from the end of February to the present, to gain a flavour of what lies ahead.

Secondly, he needs to inspire confidence in the Society's Council and staff that he can lead the organisation to a better future: he needs to understand quickly the issues where there is consensus and those where there are differences of opinion.

Thirdly, and by no means least, he must develop a constructive relationship with the membership especially since there are likely to be some elements who might wish (or expect) him to be a pharmacist. The hardest task that he faces is assisting the Society's Council and staff to find a solution for reorganising the Society's structures and functions that will satisfy as many of the profession's expectations as possible without alienating too many external stakeholders.

And if there was any fleeting thought that, with the change of Prime Minister, there would be a little time to play with, that idea was dashed by the announcement made by Gordon Brown this week that a new Health and Social Care Bill is to be one of the planks of his first year in office. The Bill will set in legislative stone much of what was outlined in the White Paper published in February.

As far as Mr Holmes is concerned, the expression "hitting the ground running" seems most apt.

Editor and editorial director
Olivia Timbs
Tel 020 7572 2414

Deputy editor
Andrew Haynes, *MRPharmS*
The Society section
Tel 020 7572 2421

Managing editor
Graeme Smith, *MRPharmS*
Letters and other contributions
Tel 020 7572 2426

Assistant editor
Michael Thompson
Editor — *PJ Online*
Tel 020 7572 2428

News editor
Harriet Adcock, *MRPharmS*
Tel 020 7572 2415

Senior news and feature writer
Dawn Connelly, *MRPharmS*
Tel 020 7572 2427

News and feature writers
Tom Moberly
Tel 020 7572 2417
Matthew Wright, *MRPharmS*
Tel 020 7572 2430

Senior contributions editor
Lin-Nam Wang, *MRPharmS*
Continuing professional development
Tel 020 7572 2413

Contributions editor
Gemma Cleveland
Reviews
Tel 020 7572 2416

Website controller — pjonline.com
Gowan Clews
Tel 020 7572 2418

Personal assistant to the editor
Emma Kerby-Evans
Tel 020 7572 2414

Administrative assistant
Pauline Heslop
Branch meetings, copyright, permissions
Tel 020 7572 2422

Journal oversight board
Tim Albert
Noel Baumber, *FRPharmS*
Soraya Dhillon, *MRPharmS*
Niall Dickson (*chairman*)
Steve Wicks, *MRPharmS*

Head of sales
Philippa Stahelin

Office administrator — sales
Jo Cook

Website manager — pjcareers.com
Clare Knights

Display advertisement manager
Stuart Thomas

Classified advertisement manager
Lily Emery

Classified advertisement executive
Patrick Kearns

Head of publishing services
John Wilson

Production manager
Joanne Marks

Production assistants
Hillary Carter
Christopher Icha

Director of publications
Charles Fry