

More equal than others?

Members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society who have been following the Pharmacy 2020 articles that *The Journal* has published over the past two months may be disappointed to learn that the series comes to an end with this week's contribution. The authors of these articles hold strong opinions and, arguably, include some of the most influential pharmacists in Britain. *The Journal* would expect the pieces to remain relevant for many years and it will be interesting to revisit the themes in 2020 to find out how perspicacious the writers have been.

With that in mind, it is hard to dismiss the views of Clive Jackson, director of the National Prescribing Centre, who is the final contributor (p365). Far from allowing the series to end with a whimper, his article makes for rather uncomfortable reading, and suggests that the profession may be moving towards a schism.

Pharmacists who rely on old-style pharmacy practice underpinned by dispensing income for their livelihood — “dispensing traditionalists” — may be squeezed by other health care professionals who see there are opportunities for them in the clinical arena, and by support staff who are prepared to develop their own skills and roles to undertake the traditional responsibilities more cheaply.

So the future for pharmacy, Mr Jackson suggests, lies with the “clinical modernists”. “We should remember,” he writes, “that . . . both medicine and pharmacy emerged, as separate professions, out of the original combined role of the apothecary — could we be approaching a new, equally seismic (and not dissimilar) fracturing of the pharmacist's role?”

If that is not enough to shake pharmacists up, we also carry a **Broad spectrum** article (p348) in which it is argued that locums may be an endangered species unless they, too, adopt some of the habits of the “clinical modernists”, as well as being au fait with the pharmacy market, their local health care economy and how the NHS really works.

We will have to wait to find out how the traditionalists and the modernists will work together and whether, as Mr Jackson suggests, some become more equal than others.

Open Day: not all the usual suspects

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Open Day seems to have been well received by those pharmacists and guests who travelled to Lambeth last weekend to hear from the Society's Council and staff and to learn more about what goes on there (p363). Although some faces were familiar, there were a number of new ones, suggesting that the initiative reached parts of the membership that the Society has not reached before. Let us hope that this is the first of many ideas that the Society will adopt in the coming months as it reaches out to persuade the membership that it has something to offer everyone.

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

Acting head of sales

Peter Goacher

Office administrator — sales

Jo Cook

Website manager — pccareers.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